Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-061
Thursday
1 April 1993

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FBIS-LAT-93-061 *1 April 1993*

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Cuba

Council of State Comments on Robaina Appointment

FL0104025593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to GRANMA newspaper, the appointment of Roberto Robaina as Cuban foreign minister took place when Ricardo Alarcon was elected president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, leaving the post of minister of foreign relations vacant. The Council of State, at the request of the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], agreed to appoint Comrade Robaina to carry out those duties.

The Council of State considers Comrade Robaina fully qualified to efficiently carry out the new responsibilities that may be assigned him by the PCC and the Revolution.

The communique published in GRANMA newspaper points out that in the face of this national necessity, the leadership of the Union of Young Communists must release Comrade Roberto Robaina from his duties in that organization and elect a replacement. [passage omitted]

Official Does Not Rule Out U.S. Military Intervention

AU0104133493 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 1 Apr 93 p 2

[Christof Parnreiter report: "Fidel Castro's Cautious Renewal"]

[Text] Havana—With the nomination of the leader of the Communist Youth of Cuba, Roberto Robaina (37), as new foreign minister, state and party leader Fidel Castro apparently made a cautious step toward a less dogmatic policy.

Apart from Robaina, economic expert and Vice President Carlos Lage and Ricardo Alarcon, former foreign minister and current parliamentary president, also belong to the "new generation" that tends toward a pragmatic policy.

Just like Alarcon (56), Robaina has repeatedly confirmed his readiness for dialogue with the United States—on the basis that Washington gives up its blockade policy. In that case, "a great deal would undoubtedly change" in Cuba, Alarcon stated in an interview with DER STANDARD correspondent Christof Parnreiter in Havana. "We would no longer view anybody as a U.S. agent, for example, because agents would no longer exist."

Alarcon rejected the most recent allegations by the UN Human Rights Commission against Cuba: "This report mentions 51 cases, but the reproaches are unfounded." Only people who violate the laws are prosecuted in Cuba, and there are no restrictions concerning trips abroad, Alarcon claimed in spite of the fact that Cubans are trying to escape to the United States every week with the most adventurous water vehicles. "Everybody who wants to leave can leave. Yet the United States and Europe build walls against the refugees."

Despite the change of power in Washington, the danger of a military intervention might even increase in the next few years. "If the United States cannot eliminate us with a blockade, it might be tempted to view an invasion as a last resort. However, the abolition of a government is not involved here, but rather the elimination of a social project. The U.S. Army would have to fight against numerous people." However, Alarcon also tries to dash the hopes of some members of the opposition who believe that the end of the blockade might destroy the cohesion among the Cuban regime: "We are not afraid of that. Why does the United States not test that and suspend the blockade for one year to see what will happen?"

Havana Experiences Additional Power Outages

FL3103152493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Report by Electric Union spokesman Antonio Mora de la Cruz]

[Excerpt] The electric generation shortage in the national electric system will continue today. For this reason, power outages have been taking place in Havana since 0620. The following municipalities will continue to lack power until 0900: Boyeros, 10 de Octubre, Arroyo Naranjo, Centro Habana, and Habana Vieja. From 0900 to 1300, the outage will take place in: Marianao, Lisa, Guanabacoa, Regla, Cotorro, San Miguel del Padron, and Habana del Este. From 1300 to 1700 the outage will take place in: Plaza, Cerro, Centro Habana, and Habana Vieja. From 1700 to 2000 the outages will once again be in: Marianao, Playa, Lisa, Guanabacoa, Regla, Cottorro, San Miguel del Padron, and Habana del Este. From 2000 to 2300 the outage will be in: Boyeros, 10 de Octubre, and Arroyo Naranjo.

During the day, this schedule may be subject to change in response to the demand for electricity and the electric generation available at specific times. Therefore, certain areas might experience additional outages. Once the units that are out of service are repaired, the regular power outage schedule will be implemented in the capital. [passage omitted]

Greneda

TUC Denies Trying To 'Bring Down' Government

FL3103183893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1644 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, March 31, CANA—The Grenada Trades Union Council (TUC) has rejected a newspaper report that it had joined opposition political parties in a bid to topple the government.

"We refute such charges. It has never been, is not and will never be our intention as a trade union movement to

join with anyone or (try) by ourselves to bring down the legitimate government of the country," TUC President Eric Pierre told CANA.

The Grenada GUARDIAN newspaper, published by the opposition Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) of former prime minister Sir Eric Gairy, in its weekly edition said the TUC had joined with opposition political parties to "bring down" the government.

"This unified force, which represents a wide cross-section of the Grenadian population, reflects the total rejection of the NDC's (National Democratic Congress') plans to sell out the country's national assets," the paper said.

However, Pierre denied his group had a political agenda. He indicated that there was some common ground with the opposition on the government's privatisation policy, particularly as it affects the Grenada Bank of Commerce (GBC) and the Grenada Electricity Company (Grenlec).

"We have got together to discuss the question of privatisation.... We want government to stop privatising the Grenlec and the GBC," he said.

The ruling National Democratic Congress has denied any plan to divest the profit-making bank.

Pierre said his union was not generally against privatisation, but was opposed to money-making state businesses being sold. He accused the GULP of using the trade union movement to play party politics. Several trade union leaders refused to sit on the same platform with Sir Eric during May Day celebrations last year. At least two unions have also accused the Grenada Manual and Maritime Workers Union, led by Sir Eric, of poaching their membership.

Haiti

UN/OAS Mediator Caputo Continues Negotiations

FL3103172493 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1300 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Dante Caputo, international mediator in the Haitian crisis, will stay in the country as long as all sectors in the national life are unable to reach a compromise for the return of democracy to Haiti. This is what a diplomatic source told us once again today.

Today, Mr. Caputo will meet with the private sector at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry to debate various issues relating to Haiti's political situation. The negotiations for a resolution of the Haitian crisis are going very well. This is what a source close to the civilian mission told Tropic FM in the afternoon of 30 March. According to the source, Caputo will continue his meetings with the sectors concerned about the crisis in order to see how it can be resolved.

On 30 March, Caputo met with the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Dr. Alexandre Medard. He also met with the apostolic nuncio, Monsignor Lorenzo Baldisseri. Caputo met with the voodoo association called Borde National and the [pro-Aristide] presidential commission. Regarding the rumors circulating on the negotiations being hampered, the source told us that the negotiations continue to go very well between Mr. Dante Caputo and the various sectors he has met.

No date has been set yet for Caputo's departure from Haiti. However, it is reported in the news that the international emissary, Mr. Caputo, is satisfied with the meetings, which have been positive.

Caputo Scheduled To Return to New York

FL0104000693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] UN and OAS mediator Dante Caputo is scheduled to return to New York on 31 March to give a report on the progress of his discussions with civilian and military Haitian officials on a negotiated solution to the Haitian crisis, according to a diplomatic source. Caputo will leave Port-au-Prince after a 1600 GMT meeting with presidents of the various employers' and socioprofessional associations of the country. He will return to Port-au-Prince within the next few days, in all likelihood at the beginning of next week, to reach an agreement for a procedure and an agenda to put an end to the crisis, the same source pointed out.

Mr. Caputo will give a report on his conversations to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali; to the special U.S. representative for Haiti, Lawrence Pezzullo; and to ousted President Aristide.

Aid Package Promise Stimulates Crisis Resolution

FL0104001093 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 1700 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to a source contacted by the Haitian Press Agency [AHP], Caputo should be back in Haiti on 4 April to continue his consultations seeking a quick, viable solution to the 18-month old crisis. Commenting on the unfolding of the negotiations, this source asserted that there is no longer a question of regressing, and that there is no further choice for Haiti than to return to constitutional order. Recalling the promise made recently by President Clinton of $1 billion in aid to Haiti over five years, this source says that this aid will be effective only if democracy is restored in Haiti.

The AHP also learned that a working breakfast brought Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide together with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on 30 March. According to a source close to the State Department, it was confirmed during this meeting that negotiations are moving in the right direction and that a solution is imminent. [passage omitted]

Socialists Favor Negotiated Solution to Crisis

FL3103183993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] On 30 March, a meeting was held between a delegation of a socialist-democratic group and the UN/OAS special envoy, Mr. Dante Caputo and the other members of the delegation in Haiti. The socialist deputies clearly stated their position and actions to the UN representatives. Their position is based mainly on the search for a negotiated solution to the Haitian political crisis.

The socialists who met with Dante Caputo, recalled that they have always put aside any extremist solution, indeed, any solution that would question the independence of the Republic of Haiti. As such the socialist-democratic group still believes in the possibility of a true compromise among all the sociopolitical sectors, which is an indispensable condition for the construction of a state of law and for establishing a policy of economic recovery.

The socialist-democratic group reaffirms to everyone its firm determination to work toward a fair national solution, an honorable and durable solution that must guarantee the fundamental rights and interests of all the sectors of national life and which would be able to create a real atmosphere of social calm.

Dupiton Protests 'Desecration' of Parliament

FL3103230093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton protests what he calls desecration of the Legislative Palace. In a press release, the president of the Senate's progovernment bloc mentions intrusions on the premises of the Legislative Palace by journalists and groups of foreign nationals identified as journalists at the invitation of some opposition senators. The office headed by Thomas Eddy Dupiton has expressed the strongest opposition to such intrusions that he considers profanation of the Legislative Palace and a blot on national sovereignty.

While renewing his support for democratic pluralism, the office of his Alliance recalls that the session room is reserved exclusively for the use of senators. This room should not serve as a gathering place for political formations. This note of protest comes 24 hours after senators of the opposition bloc held a debate on the Constitution in the Senate session room, to which were also invited representatives of political parties, popular organizations, labor unions, and peasant groups.

Sen. Dupiton asserts that the presence of journalists in the session chambers in the absence of the office remains subject to special authorization. However, according to Ansy-Rose Resignac, it's not only the entrance to the session chambers that seems to be prohibited to journalists.

Change Reported in General Staff of FADH High Command

FL3103164393 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1300 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] A change has been made in the general staff of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] High Command. Colonel Henry-Robert Marshall, G-3, has been replaced as G-3 by Colonel Martial Romulus. Col. Marshall, who was in charge of training, is now a member of the personal general staff of the Army commander in chief, Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras. Col. Marshall replaces Col. Romulus, who was in charge of the military assistance coordination office. Col. Marshall is a former military attache to Washington. He was transferred to Port-au-Prince a few weeks after the coup.

Jamaica

'Official Preliminary' Counts Tabulated for 41 of 60 Districts

FL0104024193 Bridgetown CANA in English 2257 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 31, CANA—Jamaica's electoral office said late Wednesday [31 March] that "official preliminary" counts had been received in 41 of the island's 60 constituencies following Tuesday's general elections with the People's National Party (PNP) holding a 37-to-four lead over the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

Media reports meanwhile placed the PNP's lead at 52-to-five with three seats undecided.

An electoral office spokesman said it was having difficulty receiving information from counting centres in the deep rural areas where in some cases there were no telephones.

The seats confirmed for the JLP so far are Kingston Western for party leader Edward Seaga, Trelawny Southern for Brascoe Lee, Manchester Northeast for Audley Shaw, and St. Catherine West Central for a party deputy leader, Enid Bennett.

A number of leading JLP politicians including former Prime Minister Hugh Shearer lost their seats in the PNP's landslide victory.

Patterson Swearing-In Set for 'Saturday'

FL3103212193 Bridgetown CANA in English 2030 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 31, CANA—Jamaica Prime Minister P. J. Patterson will be sworn in for a second term on Saturday [3 April] following the landslide victory by his Peoples National Party (PNP) in general elections on Tuesday.

Patterson made the announcement Wednesday during a press briefing at which he outlined the aims and objectives of his new administration over the next five years. The official count of votes is not yet over but the PNP is

expected to capture 53 of the 60 seats in Parliament, with the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) taking the remaining seven.

Kingston Businesses, Communities Fear Further Violence

FL3103210393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1947 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Report by Garfield Myers]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 31, CANA—The final tally of votes in Tuesday's [30 March] general election in Jamaica remained unclear up to midday Wednesday, but indications were that the governing People's National Party (PNP) was on its way to winning as many as an unprecedented 53 of the 60 seats in the House of Representatives.

The electoral office was unable to say early Wednesday whether all preliminary counts had been completed or whether final counts had started islandwide. But when electoral offices closed late Tuesday with more than 75 percent of the votes counted, the ruling PNP had captured just over 60 percent of the popular vote and seemed assured of eight additional seats to add to the 45 it took in the general elections.

The victory provided a personal mandate for Prime Minister Designate P.J. Patterson who had inherited his job from retired Prime Minister Michael Manley exactly a year ago. Tuesday's election was the first time in the 54-year history of the PNP that a national election—parliamentary or local—was being run without a Manley at the helm.

On an untidy election day, with widespread irregularities and voter intimidation, particularly in the capital and nearby communities, voter turn-out unofficially estimated at about 60 percent was the lowest since the 1959 election. Analysts agreed that of the one million voters on roll, most of the over 30 percent categorised as undecided in public opinion polls during the weeks leading up to election day, did not vote.

For the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP), now expected to receive as few as seven seats and no more than ten, the defeat was the biggest in its 50-year history. Among those losing was the former prime minister and veteran politician, 69-year-old Hugh Shearer, who went down to 32-year-old Peter Bunting of the PNP in Southeast Clarendon.

Other leading JLP casualties included former party dissidents Pearnel Charles, Errol Anderson, and Edmund Bartlett. Shearer, Anderson, and Charles are all members of the powerful Bustamante Industrial Trades Union (BITU) which for years provided a bedrock of JLP support.

Meanwhile, sections of the capital remained tense early Wednesday following election day violence in which at least one person was killed and close to a dozen were injured. Many businesses in downtown Kingston remained closed and some buses stayed off the roads. Some roads leading to traditionally volatile communities were blocked with stones, tree trunks, and old tyres by citizens, in an apparent response to fear that they could come under attack.

St. Lucia

Opposition Party Congratulates Jamaican PNP

FL3103214493 Bridgetown CANA in English 2104 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, March 31, CANA—The main opposition St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP) on Wednesday [31 March] congratulated Jamaica's governing People's National Party (PNP) on its re-election to a second five-year term in general elections Tuesday.

SLP leader Julian Hunte said the massive PNP victory indicated that the "people of Jamaica have spoken and their unanimously declared choice of a PNP government for the next five years speaks volumes."

Although the official count has not yet been released, the PNP is expected to capture 53 of the 60 House of Representatives seats with the remainder going to the opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP).

Hunte said the victory was "as much an endorsement" for Prime Minister P.J. Patterson "as it is of the PNP's policies and programmes for lifting Jamaica out of the many social and economic distresses it has suffered over the years." Hunte said the victory also allowed Patterson to emerge from the shadow of former Prime Minister Michael Manley whom he succeeded a year ago.

"As you continue in the manner you have begun..., Jamaica can only improve in stability, prosperity, and peace," Hunte said.

Trinidad and Tobago

Port Authority Announces Retrenchment of 800 Workers

FL0104023093 Bridgetown CANA in English 2203 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Report by Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 31, CANA—The Trinidad and Tobago Port Authority has announced the immediate retrenchment of 800 workers because of the poor response to its voluntary separation and early retirement plan. Port workers had on Monday [29 March] downed tools to protest against the nonpayment of wages last week amounting to 1.3 million dollars (one TT dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents) and salaries of 3.5 million dollars to the monthly-paid workers. Government earlier this year instructed three public utilities, including the port authority, to reduce their work force in order to become efficient and viable since subventions were being significantly reduced and in some cases, completely cut.

Workers at the two other state-owned companies, the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA); and the Public

Transport Workers Corporation (PTSC) have oversubscribed to the plan. The chairman of the port authority told reporters that only 70 of the intended 881 workers had applied for voluntary separation.

" .. The response to the voluntary plan has been poor and instead of getting the co-operation from the union for acceptance of generous terms, we are getting instead, what appears to be deliberate attempts to drag the discussions on indefinitely," said the port authority chairman Ronald Nurse. "Already, the deadline for responding to the offer has been extended seven times in the last two months."

Stating that the financially-strapped port authority was unwilling and unable to accede to additional demands for termination benefits, Nurse added that the cost of the separation packages already offered and accepted totalled 95 million dollars or an average of 108,000 dollars per person for 881 workers.

"The authority must complete the restructuring exercise," he remarked. "Neither the authority nor the government is in a position to continue to finance the deficit that would otherwise be incurred. "There can be no more extensions to the deadline date.... For applications (and) in the circumstances, the authority is faced with the painful option of retrenchment which will be put in place immediately. The authority must complete the restructuring exercise," he remarked. "Neither the authority nor the government is in a position to continue to finance the deficit that would otherwise be incurred. There can be no more extensions to the deadline date which is today (Tuesday), for applications (and) in the circumstances, the authority is faced with the painful option of retrenchment which will be put in place immediately."

The chairman said notices of retrenchment would be sent out and after the specified 45 days, retrenchment would take place. He said the authority was making every effort to source funds to pay the workers their wages and salaries since the work stoppage was adversely affecting the operations of the port. Because of the "withdrawal of services," one foreign shipping agent has threatened to pull out of the country, he said.

El Salvador

Officers Jailed in Jesuit Murder Case Granted Amnesty

PA3103200293 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] On 31 March, the First Penal Court decided to grant amnesty to the two military officers who had been sentenced for the murder of six Jesuit priests and their two maids in November 1989.

Court Secretary Wilfredo Hernandez Calderon delivered the decision to the Fourth Penal Court in San Salvador, ordering the release of Colonel Guillermo Benavides and Lieutenant Yusi Rene Mendoza.

The two military officers had been sentenced to 30 years in prison for the multiple murders. According to the Truth Commission report, the massacre was ordered by the Armed Forces High Command.

Two weeks ago, right-wing parties at the Legislative Assembly approved an amnesty law for those responsible for serious and violent events, which became effective 31 March.

According to Article 244 of the Constitution, amnesty cannot be applied to officials who committed crimes during the same presidential period in which the law was promulgated. Despite this, the two military officers were granted amnesty by the First Penal Court.

Defense Lawyer Carlos Mendez Flores said Article 244 does not apply because it refers to political crimes and the Jesuit massacre case was a common crime.

Calderon Sol Accepts Arena Presidential Candidacy

PA3103132293 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Mar 93 pp 3, 52

[Text] Dr. Armando Calderon Sol, Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena] presidential candidate for the 1994-99 term, has promised to continue building and preparing El Salvador for the challenges of the 21st century.

"We must consolidate the most profound changes in democracy ever experienced in El Salvador; we must strive for peace; we must further encourage economic progress; and we must strengthen and increase all kinds of social plans and actions to favor the neediest sectors," the politician said when reviewing his overall government platform.

Calderon Sol explained that preparing the country for the 21st century involves a change of attitude, a change of mentality, and a change in plans to achieve human, social, economic, and political development. "It involves exchanging a culture of violence for a culture of opportunity and respect, an attitude of hate and envy for an attitude of reconciliation and solidarity, and a polarized and divided society for a society united by strong moral and civic values," he emphasized.

Populists cling to the concept of land with the same mentality of their 19th century forefathers. "We propose a different outlook to prepare ourselves for 2000," he said.

Within that framework, Calderon Sol proposed "consolidating the production revolution in the countryside" by including new systems and technologies to render the soil more productive and by "going to sea and reaping the resources we have failed to use even though they are there before our very eyes. The sea will thus become our great partner in achieving new production goals."

As a third change, the Arena presidential candidate plans to "build a country on its way up" because the sky is the limit, like the Salvadoran people's creativity. That involves encouraging the development of new industries, new services, domestic trade, and particularly exports, he said.

"Thus the land, sea, and our creative efforts to grow give us an option to break with the past and turn El Salvador into a country of opportunity and new possibilities that will yield resources," Calderon Sol emphasized.

Calderon said it is also necessary to emphasize the concept of democracy in all its forms. He promised to build a democracy with participation at the grass-roots level so people may become fully involved in solving their problems.

He added: It is already being done. Following the achievement of peace, town councils, municipal authorities, supportive society, and the state subsidies will become the cornerstone for progress in communities and municipalities.

Referring to the judicial system, the presidential candidate said reality has shown that the system was had deficiencies in the past, and much remains to be done despite the progress achieved. Arena pledges to continue modernizing and strengthening the judicial system. "We tell our local and foreign political adversaries and opponents that we will not let our institutionalized system be affected by the interests of persons or groups that have always tried to destabilize and seize power through various struggles," he said.

Calderon Sol said democracy in the economic sector is exemplified by a free market in which an individual may fully develop his abilities. Nevertheless, that requires a state that prevents a few people from availing themselves of that freedom to the detriment of many others.

"We oppose bureaucratic inflation and administrative corruption; we oppose a state that meddles in a productive process. We do, however, favor a strong and efficient state that is truly at the people's service," he stated.

A market is the best generator and distributor of resources. More jobs are generated by achieving growth; productivity increases by introducing new technologies; production possibilities increase by reconverting industries; and new opportunities are created by establishing

new enterprises. Those things will help increase the Salvadoran people's income, he emphasized.

Calderon Sol said: "If we talk about equity and justice as the means to achieve full democracy, then we can never allow our labor force to be used like a machine. We will give dignity to the workers, employees, and women whose daily efforts represent the grains of sand used to build our country."

The Arena candidate said dignifying the workers means recognizing the importance of their contribution and identifying and solving their problems without politicizing them, because their needs have no political color. It also means giving them new opportunities to progress as well as to protect their future with an overall, supportive social welfare.

During his speech, which was given after his official proclamation as presidential candidate, the political leader said we must also dignify the businessmen, the men and women who forge ahead with ingenuity and courage and whose progress results in the generation of new jobs and opportunities for others. "We cannot separate the workers from the businessmen, much less create a confrontation between them, as those who advocate certain doctrines would do. They both make up an inseparable productive unit because there can be no worker without a businessman, and there can be no enterprise without workers," Calderon Sol said.

Calderon Sol Speech at Assembly

PA3103211893 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 31 Mar 93 pp 44, 45

[Speech by Dr. Armando Calderon Sol at the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, Special General Assembly in San Salvador on 28 March]

[Text] Major Roberto D'Aubuisson; Dr. Alfredo Cristiani, president of the Republic and honorary Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena] president; Messrs. members of the National Executive Council, department delegates, and delegates of the seven Arena groups; special guests; Arena brothers; everyone. Thank you for honoring me with the nomination as Arena candidate for the presidency of the Republic.

Your nomination represents the greatest challenge in my life. I am proud to be a Salvadoran and an Arena member. With you; my father; my mother, who is in my heart, and my dear wife and children stand as witnesses as I pledge before God and the homeland that I will dedicate all my efforts to the fulfillment of our people's goals and to our victory in March 1994.

Maj. D'Aubuisson, we proudly state that your lessons yielded results, continue to yield results, and will continue to yield results. The temarious insults and accusations that have always been made against you, although they have never been supported with clear and irrefutable evidence, unite us more than ever to defend your memory. The great crime that your adversaries will never forgive you for was to awaken the Salvadoran people to state: Homeland Yes, Communism No!

Roberto, you will always be with us because no one will be able to forget the most beautiful lesson in patriotism we were given when you taught us that the following should always prevail above all: First, El Salvador; second, El Salvador; and third, El Salvador.

During our first campaign for the mayoralty of San Salvador in 1988, we made a pledge: We Will Improve San Salvador Together! Thanks to the support and work by the people in the capital we have fulfilled our goals as municipal authorities.

During the 1989 electoral campaign we said: "To vote for Arena is to vote for peace." President Cristiani, thank you for fulfilling the pledges we made to El Salvador; thank you for achieving the peace we wanted so much. The goals achieved by your government are evident to all and are too long to enumerate. Allow me to tell you that Arena will always feel proud you were the first Arena president freely elected by the people.

Arena members state with profound satisfaction that our doctrine—forged by a group of Salvadorans and inspired by our immortal leader, Maj. Roberto D'Aubuisson—is based on the trilogy God, Homeland, and Liberty. It is not imported like the doctrines of statists, Social Democrats, antihistorical Communists, and Christian Democrats. All of these movements have failed.

We believe the greatest challenge is to keep on building and preparing our dear El Salvador to face the challenges of the 21st century. We must consolidate the most profound changes in democracy ever experienced in El Salvador; we must consolidate peace; we must encourage economic progress even more; and we must strengthen and increase all kinds of social plans and actions to favor the most needy. That is why, as men and women of good will who struggle every day for our people's progress, we are sure that if we do well today we will do even better tomorrow with all the Salvadoran people's support.

What do we think preparing ourselves for the 21st century involves?

It involves a change of attitude, a change of mentality, and a change in plans to achieve the country's human, social, economic, and political development. It involves changing a culture of violence for a culture of opportunities and respect, changing an attitude of hate and envy for an attitude of reconciliation and solidarity, and changing a polarized and divided society for a society united by strong moral and civic values. We began that change with the Arena government and we will consolidate it with our next government for the welfare of El Salvador and our children.

The populists remain adamantly affixed to the concept of land, with the same mentality of their forefathers of the 19th Century. We, on the other hand, propose a broad change to prepare us for the year 2,000.

First: We will consolidate the agricultural production revolution, incorporating new systems and technology to make our soil more productive and lucrative.

Second: We will work the sea to harvest the wealth that lies right in front of us, which we have been incapable of using wisely, and turn it into a great associate in conquering the new production frontiers.

Third: We are going to build this country upward, because that space is infinite, as is Salvadoran creativity. This means promoting new industry, new services, internal trade, and particularly, exports. We must be bold. We must be sure of our capabilities and creative minds and say. 'Because we are Salvadorans, we are sure we can do it."

Hence, land, sea, and creative effort toward upward growth offer us the option of breaking away from the past to make El Salvador a country of opportunities, with new frontiers of wealth.

We Salvadorans must also take a very close look at the concept of democracy in all its forms.

Therefore, in the political field, we will build a democracy with participation from the grassroots up, which will make the people the main character in solving our problems. We are already doing this. With the coming of peace, though, the town meetings and the municipal governments, with the support of the community and state subsidies, the people will become the cornerstone for progress in our communities and municipalities. We will continue to work toward ending bureaucracy and centralism, assuring that the services the state must provide reach the more needy.

In the judicial field, reality tells us that the system did have defects in the past, but despite the progress, there is still much to be done. Arena's commitment is to continue modernizing and strengthening the system. We hereby tell our political opponents, local and foreign, that we will not allow our institution to be affected by personal or group interests, which have always tried to destabilize and take control through various "forms of struggle." We must guarantee the state of law, because there cannot be true democracy nor can we build a society in harmony, if the law does not prevail. This, and freedom, uphold personal dignity.

In this sense, I hereby commit myself to give the fight against all types of crime top priority, until such time as we can guarantee the safety of the people and the property and life of all Salvadorans. We will be exemplary in the fight against this social waste and in bringing tranquility back to our homes.

In the economic field, democracy manifests itself in a free market that allows each individual to develop his maximum capacity. This, however, calls for the state to prevent the few from taking advantage of this freedom in detriment to the majority. Here we are speaking clearly of freedom and not libertinism, much less of privileges. We oppose bureaucratic inflation and administrative corruption. We oppose government interference in the productive process. We support, however, a strong and efficient state that is truly at the service of the people.

Our challenge is to create new opportunities to generate wealth, because without it we do not have anything to share. For that reason, we, Arena members, have decided that economic growth must be real, that is, above the rate of inflation. It must be strong, that is, greater than the population growth; it must be sustained over time so that it can yield permanent fruit; and it must be equitable so that all Salvadorans can share the welfare and achieve lasting social peace.

We know the market is the best generator and distributor of resources. That is why we are going to reinforce it, since by growing we will generate more jobs, by introducing new technologies we will raise productivity, by modernizing our industries we will expand our productive boundaries, and by opening new companies we will create new opportunities. We will thus raise income for the benefit of every Salvadoran and our country.

If we talk of equity and justice as a means to achieve full democracy, then we must never allow the labor sector to be used. We will ennoble the worker, employee, peasant, fisherman, artisan, and merchant, all the men and women who with their daily work are putting in their grain of sand [a play on words on the party acronym] to build our country.

Ennobling the workers means recognizing the importance of their contribution to progress; it means finding and solving their problems without politicizing them, because their needs have no political color; it means giving them new opportunities for progress; it also means protecting their future through social, general, and solid care so they can have a peaceful old age with the savings of a lifetime. That is what Arena will do because the people are hard workers!

We must also ennoble the owners of businesses, those men and women who with ingenuity and courage advance with their own means, and as the fruit of their personal progress generate jobs and opportunities for others. We cannot separate workers and businessmen, nor can we pit one against the other, as some class conscious doctrines preach. The two make up an inseparable productive unit. There is no worker without businessman, nor is there a company without a worker.

Expanding our productive boundaries requires high levels of investment, the rebuilding of our infrastructure, highways, ports, telecommunications, water services, and the generation of electricity, which were damaged by violence, populism, corruption, and administrative inefficiency during the lost decade. We are already doing that, and we will reinforce it in our next government.

With our triumph we are going to stimulate production further to diversify our economy, conquer new markets, and export new products. We will also strive to consolidate the integration process in Central America and

maintain the international respect we have earned through the Arena government until we achieve full economic independence.

We will do everything possible to protect the environment, because we cannot have overall economic and social development if progress is based on destruction. That would be a crime that our children would not forgive tomorrow.

In the social field, democracy must be broadened with the state's cooperation by creating equal opportunities. This means that human beings must be protected and parents must be prepared from the time of conception, when life begins in the mother's womb.

This involves preventive health, nutrition, and training the mother in child care; it means learning to respect and protect the child's rights from the beginning of life; it means giving him an education to enable him to face life with better tools because education is the best means to increase productivity and income. That is how we see democracy in the social field, as a democracy of opportunities under equal conditions to face life.

The great objective of our next government will be to open a period of education, health, and family security, which will include every last corner of our country. As of this moment, we commit ourselves to achieve this objective.

We cannot forget, however, that this is a responsibility shared by both the state and society. We are sure we will continue to have the citizens' support, because the Arena government has created social awareness in the people; because solidarity is growing within our society; hundreds of voluntary organizations are participating in the great crusade to eradicate extreme poverty so that those who are born poor will not be condemned to die poor.

We will continue carrying out big and small projects to take potable water and basic services to the last corner of our country so the most needy families can live with dignity, and so their children can grow up healthy. We will do all this without overlooking education, training, and literacy campaigns for all our fellow citizens, as our men and women are the fatherland's greatest asset.

Complete social development cannot occur without strengthening, encouraging, and providing family security. It is important to recognize womens' daily contributions to our children's education and to the country's development. Women are the essence of the Salvadoran spirit, they teach and guide us, they make our fatherland great, they have contributed the most to reconciliation and peace, because even though many lost their children as a result of irrational violence, they have been known to forgive.

We cannot, however, talk about strengthening and reconciling the family if we forget our brothers who had to flee to other countries as a result of violence or lack of opportunities. We Salvadorans owe them a lot, because they are the greatest partners of the country's economic and social development. To those Salvadorans we say that we will rebuild El Salvador as a country of great opportunities so they can return with their experience, hope, strength, and patriotic love, so that together, we can unite, once and for all, our great family. Salvadoran brothers who are away, we know you will soon return to your country and will say: A present for our Fatherland!

Democracy is strengthened by creating more opportunities to give more Salvadorans access to property. We have great differences on this subject with opportunists and populists, who are the champions of demagoguery and dispossession. Respecting the Constitution, property rights, and individual rights, during the next five years we will continue the process of creating new opportunities to make El Salvador a country of property owners.

We speak of modernization and changes to continue building a new completely democratic society, full of nationalism and within a constitutional framework, as expressed by the doctrinal objectives of our great party. Youths must be called upon to play a leading role.

We must remember that it was a young military professional who restored hope when strange voices were heard. It was a young man who chaired the Constituent Assembly that resulted in our current Constitution. It was young Roberto D'Aubuisson, who opened the road to peace, guiding us until we became the largest, most organized, and most united party ever known as we reached the presidency of the Republic, and a majority in the Legislative Assembly and municipal governments in only eight years. It was a young man who taught us the great lesson of democracy when he said: "The most powerful weapon of a free man is his vote."

Young men, you must join in, you must be alert, because drugs and vices are as harmful for the body and soul as the tricks played by populist, statist, and demagogic politicians.

With the arrival of peace and the consolidation of democracy, Salvadoran society has one of the biggest challenges in history. We cannot fail because God would never forgive us if we returned to fratricidal violence. The reconciliation and reconstruction of our fatherland demands from all of us a change of attitude without exception. It demands ethics, greater participation, more seriousness, and more creativity from politicians so the country can walk the path of legal, economic, and social progress in democracy with respect for human rights.

As we enter this new chapter in history, we must state our deep gratitude to the Armed Forces of El Salvador, the only armed wing of the people, and to the thousands of men who gave their lives or suffered unforgettable wounds in the defense of the country's institutionality and peace. Their democratic devotion, questioned by some and distorted by others, has become evident in this period of transition toward peace within a democracy. Their professionalism, ability, and patriotism have been proven beyond the field of battle, which we are sure the Salvadoran people recognize.

Arena followers: We have the guidelines, the overall government plan that will lead us to 2000. To draft the specific method of implementing this, however, we will be holding meetings in each municipality in the country with representatives of the various productive sectors to hear their opinions. We will do this because we recognize that the people's wisdom is greater than that of the best experts.

We say this because we know we, the people of Arena, are the best in our fatherland. This is the truth, because Arena followers have always been identified by our love for the fatherland because we know El Salvador is more important than our personal, group, or even our party interests. We stand out by our solid moral principles and civic values, which we carry in our hearts. We have stood out because we work out of love for El Salvador and because we are people who have always built things, never destroyed things.

We are a happy party, with spirit and confidence. We have the strength of our youth, who are promoting the changes to improve our party; our women, who develop the men and women of the future; our peasants and workers, who produce; our farmers, who have demonstrated the unbendable spirit of Salvadorans by continuing to work in the fields despite so many violations of their rights and the destruction and pillaging of their crops; of the professionals and entrepreneurs, whose knowledge and creative ingenuity open the horizons to progress. In other words Arena: The men and women who have made, are making, and will continue to make El Salvador great. This is why we are a party that proudly wears the Arena shirt and cross. We have rescued our country, because we have eliminated the wrongs of the past—which will never return—and we represent the great ideals of peace, progress, and freedom.

We call upon all Salvadorans, who place the national interest before their personal desires, to join us. The doors of Arena are open so we, who love freedom, democracy, and peace, might join forces; for we cannot be careless as the threat of the opportunists, demagogues, and populists, who have not yet learned history's lesson, is great.

From here we will leave to work with pride and spirit, because we are the future; we are the leaders; we are the people! Everyone knows this, because since we came to be in September 1981, we have gained ground thanks to our capability, honesty, and serving spirit. The people support us because Arena is a historical phenomenon; because it attained peace and economic revival, and caused a social solidarity awakening. Now, with all our contributions and support, Arena will be the one to build the El Salvador of tomorrow, the El Salvador of opportunities.

Fellow Arena members, we have made significant progress; we have saved our country. There is much to be done, however, and much to rebuild. This will be a time of hard work to ensure El Salvador does not regress. Our contenders are the same as always; those who do not want to see El Salvador in peace, progress, and freedom, because they thrive on demagoguery, populism, anarchy, and hatred among classes. I know that all Nationalist Republicans will not allow our country to regress. As we said before with Roberto D'Aubuisson, "Present for the Fatherland," we reaffirm this commitment toward Victory 94 by saying: "Present for the Fatherland." May God bless you all.

Nicaragua's Chamorro Ends Visit, Signs Joint Communique

PA3103143693 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani and Violeta Chamorro, his Nicaraguan counterpart, on 30 March signed an extensive document in which both presidents expressed their support for democratic processes in the region. Chamorro's visit ended with the signing of that agreement.

After following a tight agenda that included meetings with various government officials and members of private enterprise, President Chamorro said at a news conference before departing for Nicaragua that all Central American countries should work together to ensure the people's well-being.

Chamorro and Cristiani signed an extensive communique in which they committed themselves to strengthening peace processes and seeking mechanisms to strengthen the integration process in Central America for the benefit of the region.

President Cristiani said his government will make a proposal at the Guatemala summit to give Nicaragua special treatment to renegotiate its debt with El Salvador.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We will seek mechanisms so the debt service will not be a heavy burden on the Nicaraguan economy, particularly in the fiscal aspect. In that sense, I believe the other Central American countries are also willing to help Nicaragua find solutions for its debt problem. [end recording]

Regarding the political situation in Nicaragua, President Chamorro deplored the attitude assumed by the National Opposition Union, UNO, which on 30 March expressed its opposition to a resumption of the dialogue.

[Begin Chamorro recording] I deeply regret UNO's rejection of the call for a dialogue, which was made by our ministers and deputy ministers as I have given them the authority to handle specific situations. I think it is sad, because talks for the country's unity and welfare are good. I hope one day they will not reject it. [end recording]

Cristiani and Chamorro also agreed to create mechanisms to prevent gunrunning and drug-trafficking in Central America and to intensify ecological efforts.

Nicaraguan President Chamorro thus ended her two-day visit to El Salvador. According to the communique, the exact date for President Cristiani's next visit to Nicaragua has not been decided.

Cristiani, Chamorro Sign Declaration

PA0104042993 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 31 Mar 93 pp 4, 51

[Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro has announced Nicaragua will join Central American "Northern Triangle" efforts to establish a free trade and free traffic zone.

"If other Central American countries (Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador) are currently working toward that end, I see no reason why Nicaragua cannot join them," Chamorro said on 30 March at the end of her two-day official visit to El Salvador.

The presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras recently signed an agreement on free trade and free traffic in their respective countries, which will go into effect on 1 April. They also agreed to meet once a month to follow up on the measures.

Chamorro and Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani signed a joint declaration in which they stressed the importance of the actions carried out by the Central American governments in the area of immigration, which will favor the free circulation of people and goods throughout the region.

They said instructions have been issued to their respective authorities to study additional measures on customs regulations and vehicle control, which will contribute to achieve that goal.

In their joint communique, the presidents said they are convinced that the end of the armed conflicts in their countries has opened new opportunities for political, economic, social, and cultural cooperation between the two nations as a means to face the common challenges that lay before them at this decisive time in their histories.

They reiterated their commitment to the principles and values of democracy as a system of life through which their peoples can freely express their will and which promotes respect for human rights, in other words civilian, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.

The presidents reaffirmed their firm commitment to work together to make Central America a region of total peace, democracy, liberty, and development.

In the 21-point document, President Cristiani expressed his recognition of and support for President Chamorro's efforts toward Nicaragua's reconstruction, rehabilitation, and development, "efforts that require effective support from the international community."

Cristiani reiterated "the urgent need to continue and increase the special and different treatment given to Nicaragua, particularly in commercial and financial areas and concerning its foreign debt."

President Cristiani said that as a gesture of solidarity he has issued instructions to the Central Reserve Bank of El Salvador to propose at the next summit in Guatemala special treatment for Nicaragua in the renegotiations of its foreign debt with El Salvador.

President Chamorro reaffirmed her support to President Cristiani and recognized his peace efforts in El Salvador. She urged the international community to continue supporting his efforts to rebuild the country.

Both presidents expressed their satisfaction with the establishment and functioning of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and stressed the importance of the Central American Tariff System (SAC) for the regional integration process and for creating a free trade zone.

They also expressed their "firm commitment to advance together toward consolidating political and economic unity in Central America." In that regard, they celebrated the fact—of great importance in Central American relations—that in addition to multilateral agreements, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua are working toward that common objective.

In that sense, the presidents expressed their conviction that it is necessary to develop a dynamic and effective plan with specific mechanisms to carry out joint actions to expedite and strengthen the process of creating that unity among the four Republics.

Diplomatic sources commented that this is the first official visit to El Salvador by a Nicaraguan president, which confirms the good relations that exist between the two countries.

The same sources recalled that during the Sandinist regime, relations between both governments were always cold as a result of the aid Sandinists gave the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

In the joint communique, the presidents agreed to do everything possible to facilitate contacts between the productive sectors in both countries, in view of the interest shown by Salvadoran businessmen in investment opportunities in Nicaragua.

Both presidents urged the international community to cooperate with the plans to conduct mine sweeps to prevent accidents among the civilian population and transform the mined zones into productive areas.

At the same time, the presidents expressed their determination to promote programs and joint actions to face the worrisome illegal consumption and trafficking of drugs in the region.

President Chamorro officially invited President Cristiani to visit Nicaragua. She asked journalists to witness the changes that have taken place in her country.

Vice President Interviewed on Truth Commission Report

PA0104023193 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Report by Alejandro Cubillas]

[Text] Vice President Francisco Merino said the Truth Commission report does not contribute to the country's reconciliation. Merino said a government delegation traveled to New York to submit a program to the UN secretary general for complying with the Truth Commission recommendations. The vice president pointed out that some of the recommendations have already been implemented, such as those involving the Armed Forces. Other recommendations are unconstitutional, while others are not for the Executive Branch to carry out.

[Begin Merino recording] One has to do with suspending the Supreme Court magistrates, which is not for the Executive Branch to determine. [end recording]

Merino said the Truth Commission went beyond the limits set forth by the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

[Begin recording] [Cubillas] How does the government view the conclusions reached by the Truth Commission? Are they false?

[Merino] I believe we must distinguish among them. Different conclusions were reached for different cases.

[Cubillas] I am referring to the conclusions reached with regard to the Armed Forces.

[Merino] I believe the evaluation is unfair and not in keeping with reality.

[Cubillas] Do you think the government made a mistake in allowing a foreign commission to determine the truth?

[Merino] On the contrary, if you are morally trustworthy and have nothing to hide, there is no problem in allowing citizens or foreigners to study and to learn about the country.

[Cubillas] What do you think about the Truth Commission report?

[Merino] The Truth Commission report is not in keeping with the dispositions and spirit of the peace agreements. [end recording]

Merino said the Truth Commission report does not contribute to national reconciliation.

Guatemala

President Rejects Presidential Spokesman's Resignation

PA3103161693 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 30 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] "President Jorge Serrano Elias turned down Presidential Spokesman Fernando Muniz' resignation at noon on 29 March. The latter had announced his resignation to the Guatemalan media on 26 March."

The above was part of a communique issued by the presidency of the Republic in which the president confirmed "his support for Mr. Muniz and commended his work. The document also "ratified Mr. Muniz as the presidential spokesman and a member of the government cabinet."

The communique added: "The government also reiterates that there is no bill to reform the law ensuring freedom of speech." The document concluded by indicating: "The government reaffirms that there is total respect for the right to inform and be informed without any type of restriction."

The Guatemalan Chamber of Journalism (CGP) on 29 March also issued a communique expressing its total rejection "of government attempts to find legal mechanisms to restrict the media and freedom of speech."

The CGP "warned all reporters and the media in general as well as press organizations not to be tricked by the alleged generosity of the reforms. The term protection of the law is used in the reform as an excuse to gag journalists."

Finally, it indicated that the CGP will coordinate actions with the National Council for the Defense of Journalists Rights "and with international organizations, especially 'Article 19' in the UK, which is dedicated to combating gag law tactics that restrict freedom of speech."

Honduras

Congress Not Considering Constitutional Amendments

PA0104023093 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 31 Mar 93 p 58

[Text] National Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas on 30 March stated that those insisting on talking about constitutional reforms permitting presidential reelection are irresponsible. He called for an investigation to identify those persons.

Political circles have learned that a legislative session was reportedly being planned to transform Congress into a National Constituent Assembly to amend articles proscribing President Rafael Leonardo Callejas' reelection.

After meeting with President Callejas, Irias Navas said that these reports indicate "media irresponsibility."

"I must be very clear that we have not considered amending those articles (in the Constitution). On many occasions, we have said that any constitutional amendment would require consensus."

He added that a ruling party cannot amend the Constitution unless it has a clear majority in Congress—in other words, two thirds of the deputies in the Legislative Assembly.

Irias Navas said that newspapers publishing speculation based on presumptions are trying to undermine the government, "which in my opinion shows disrespect for the reader or listener by misleading them.

"As Congress president, I categorically deny any such reports as mere speculation reflecting media irresponsibility."

Irias Navas stressed that deputies "would never pass a law detrimental to the people." He noted that the laws

being reformed—such as laws on the Teachers Retirement and Pension Institute, Injupemh, and the National School of Forestry Science, Esnacifor—will benefit the people.

Liberals Reject Callejas' Extension in Power

PA0104035493 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 31 Mar 93 p 58

[Text] Some Liberal deputies stated on 30 March that they will not support any initiative to reform a basic constitutional article allowing Rafael Leonardo Callejas to extend his term of office. This, they noted, would be equivalent to a coup d'etat.

They also claimed that the Callejas government is plotting against the Honduran people—taking advantage of the extended Holy Week holiday.

[Deputy Leonardo] Godoy added that the article reform initiative is a strong rumor and that he does not know from where it is coming. He explained that this rumor is not new, as it has been circulating for more than a year and a half.

"When we reported this then, we were offered 250,000 lempiras plus a house. Since we did not go along, we were threatened with jail. We were told that this was a wild rumor. Now the rumor is back and it is connected with the government workers' holiday," Godoy pointed out.

The Liberal deputy said it is hard to believe that the Army would consent to Callejas remaining in power, since his popularity is very low.

Godoy stressed that neither the article reform attempt nor bribes offered by the ruling party will effect the Legislative Assembly.

He stressed that a consensus among the Liberal bloc at the Legislative Assembly exists against supporting constitutional reforms that attack the nation's democratic process.

He deplored that the nationalists have their hands in everything except in cleaning up the electoral process. This is why in the Central Bank safe are tapes containing copies of a "fixed" census, when the most logical thing would be to make it correct and then save it. [sentence as published]

"It would be political stupidity to attempt basic article reforms. It would be an act of political madness and despair that would not have domestic or international support because coups are frowned upon all over the world."

Liberal Deputy Luis Alberto Rubi, from Comayagua, called the basic article reforms a coup. He believes that the government could take action against the people during the Holy Week holiday.

"I do not know anything definite, but there are rumors that basic article reforms are to take place. These are unreformable articles. Those who present a draft bill may be held criminally responsible," he warned.

Rubi said that there has been talk about extending Rafael Leonardo Callejas' presidential term, but the obstacle is in the Constitution.

Rubi ruled out that any liberal deputy would consent to basic article reforms.

Nicaragua

Unconfirmed Threat to Minister Lacayo's Flight Reported

PA3103203893 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2015 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] The following is a last minute report: It seems the plane in which Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo was flying to Miami, where he would make a stopover on his trip to Paris, France, has been turned back. We have heard that a threat was made. It was reported that a missile would be fired at the plane in which the presidency minister was traveling. This is a pretty serious matter.

We are trying to contact Danilo Lacayo, director of information and press of the Presidency, to get official and trustworthy confirmation of this information. Presidency Minister Lacayo was flying American Airlines to Miami. The plane left at noon. Apparently, national security officials learned that a Redeye surface-to-air missile was going to be fired at the plane. This is a dangerous situation. The plane was turned back and landed in Managua. We are trying to get more information.

Spokesman on Flight Delay

PA3103213693 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 2023 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Presidency Spokesman Danilo Lacayo by news director Adolfo Pastran in Managua—live]

[Text] [Pastran] We have Presidency Spokesman Danilo Lacayo on the line for a last minute report. Dr. Lacayo, we would like to know what happened with Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo's flight at noon.

[Lacayo] Certainly, Adolfo. A telephone call was received at Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport before Minister Lacayo boarded the American Airlines airplane for Miami. The callers said the airplane would be shot down with a surface-to-air missile if it took off. Security measures were immediately taken. The American Airlines airplane has yet to take off at this hour, meaning 1520. Various measures have been taken and the authorities have been notified.

We would like to tell the Nicaraguan people this is part of another campaign against this government. It was very well known that Minister Lacayo was scheduled to leave and the plan was to create another crisis. Minister Lacayo and his wife are on the plane, which is preparing for take off. American Airlines is taking all the necessary precautions to protect its airplane. That is what we wanted to report.

We want to assure the Nicaraguan people that this is simply part of the efforts exerted by Nicaragua's enemies—those who wish to preclude our progress—because they know Minister Lacayo's presence at the meeting with the Paris Club consultative group is extremely important. This type of situation obviously creates expectations and is detrimental to the country's prestige. This is part of a campaign launched by certain Nicaraguan groups to hinder Nicaragua's democratic process.

[Pastran] Dr. Lacayo, we would like to expand on this. Who made the call? Did any group claim responsibility for this?

[Lacayo] It was an anonymous caller. Obviously, no group will claim responsibility. The call was made and both the authorities and the airline are duty bound to take these calls seriously. Many calls and bomb threats were received last week, but in this case the caller said a surface-to-air missiles would be fired at the American Airlines airplane.

[Pastran] What have the Nicaraguan authorities and American Airlines said about this? Will Minister Lacayo's flight be suspended or delayed?

[Lacayo] The airplane is ready and Minister Lacayo is already on board. Different members of the diplomatic corps are also on the airplane. They too will participate in the Paris Club meeting. U.S. citizens are also aboard the airplane. American Airlines has taken all the necessary measures. We will now go and talk with the American Airlines officials at the airport. We will continue to report the situation from the airport. Thank you, Adolfo.

[Pastran] Thank you, Presidency Spokesman Danilo Lacayo.

[Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish at 2054 GMT on 31 March carries a live three-minute report from Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport stating "security and public force members have the situation under control and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo's flight has taken off."]

Robelo, Chamorro Meet, Review Embassy Takeover

PA0104022893 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Report by Raul Oviedo Carbajal]

[Text] Engineer Alfonso Robelo Callejas, Nicaraguan ambassador to Costa Rica, met with President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro on 31 March. Eng. Robelo later denied any connection to the terrorist group that recently seized the Nicaraguan Embassy in Costa Rica. Robelo said he is participating in a series of meetings with high-ranking government officials, including President Chamorro, to discuss his views about the country's political situation. He did not rule out the possibility of resigning following the events in Costa Rica.

When the media asked Robelo about the statements he made giving moral support to the terrorist group, led by Jose Urbina Lara, that seized the embassy, he said he did it under duress. Robelo said he is faithful to President Chamorro's administration. He rejected reports the Nicaraguan Government Ministry is reportedly conducting an investigation against him. He said this report is a monstrosity.

Government Asks CIAV To Stay Two More Years

PA3103170393 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1124 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal has said the Nicaraguan Government has formally asked the OAS to extend the International Commission for Support and Verification's [CIAV] stay so it can continue to cooperate with the government for two more years. CIAV, whose term ends in June, has played a very important role in the pacification process. During its new term it would help ensure that human rights are protected by advising the National Police and the judicial branch in legal and human affairs, the minister said.

[Begin Leal recording] We have asked OAS to extend CIAV's presence in Nicaragua for two more years [words indistinct] concepts of development, education, and respect for human rights, both by the police and other state institutions. In addition to protecting the basic rights of demobilized Nicaraguan Resistance members, the commission would advise and prepare (?institutions) for the unrestricted respect of human rights. Nicaragua is entering a new stage [words indistinct] in these four years the president has been in office, (?reconciliation) and respect for human rights have become very important [words indistinct] for all Nicaraguans. [end recording]

FSLN Assembly Issues Declaration

PA3103172693 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 30 Mar 93 p 5

[Declaration issued by Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, Assembly in Managua on 28 March]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) approved a declaration during a regular assembly session held on 27 and 28 March 1993 and decided to publish the following declaration:

1. This first regular session of the FSLN Assembly held in 1993 is named for Emilio Baltodano Pallais, who was a member of the FSLN Assembly and of the Ethics Commission. 2. The deterioration of the political, social, and economic situation in Nicaragua is the responsibility of those who have been undermining the legitimacy of our institutions. They have been fostering polarization and revenge, thereby generating instability and social chaos. The activities of these right-wing sectors are an obstacle to Nicaragua's effort to overcome the crisis. 3. The FSLN has attempted to find peace with all Nicaraguans, but the radical right-wing sector, which only conceives of a Nicaragua without Sandinists, has

opposed these attempts. This is a political contradiction they have nurtured to start a new war that no one desires. 4. The FSLN feels that to overcome the current national crisis, to reinforce and to attain peace, stability, and economic reactivation, a consensus must be found among Nicaraguans.

The FSLN will take the initiative and work for a national consensus with all the political and productive sectors to reach political and economic agreements. These agreements should contribute to the stability and to the preservation of democracy and peace in Nicaragua. Therefore, we give total support to the call for a national dialogue. For this dialogue to be successful it should not have any preset conditions and display a tolerant and flexible attitude on the part of the participating political and economic sectors. 5. The FSLN, in its support for the national dialogue, feels its fundamental objective should be to avoid the road leading to a new armed confrontation and offer a solution to the serious social and economic crisis the Nicaraguan people are experiencing. 6. In general, the outcome causing the most concern in the current situation is the unleashing of a new armed conflict. The FSLN is making every effort to avoid this tendency and feels that the main objective should be the struggle against polarization and warmongering, while peace and social justice should be reinforced. This is why we should demand the disarmament and demobilization of the rearmed groups as one of the main goals. We should contribute to the search for economic alternatives and reinsertion of the armed groups into society.

7. The FSLN strongly condemns any form of political terrorism. 8. The FSLN condemns the political persecution that has been unleashed in the countryside against the cooperatives, former soldiers, and Sandinists. The FSLN demands the true state of law and an impartial attitude by the Tripartite Commission, made up of the government, the International Commission of Support and Verification-OAS, and the Verification Commission. The FSLN calls on all the peasants—regardless of their political affiliation—to fight for the peasants' unity, to defend their right to the land and its legalization, and their access to credit. In this way, they will avoid the manipulation of the extreme right opportunists interested in reviving the armed conflict in the countryside. 9. The current government comes about in the constitutional framework within the new era of liberty that the FSLN conquered and built for the people in the wake of the dictatorship's collapse. Therefore, the FSLN is interested in promoting the development of democracy and to contribute to internal stability and strengthening the constitutional order for the nation's well-being. In this way the government can fulfill the constitutional period for which it was elected. The FSLN is opposed to the efforts by the extreme right and ambitious political sectors to destabilize and destroy the political order and the state's institutions. 10. The origin of the current national political crisis is not, in any manner, the result of a cogovernment, which does not exist, or from the workers' defensive actions. The true origin of the crisis can be found in the radical right and ambitious politicians' attempt to overlook the true place Sandinists hold in history, the nation's socioeconomic political problems, and the Sandinists' actions aimed at exterminating these problems. 11. The FSLN, as the main and largest opposition political party representing a broad political base, has the right to share the nation's responsibilities. Therefore, it should be duly represented in the legislative, the electoral, and the judicial sectors.

Regarding the Executive Branch, we have demanded and continue to demand that government workers, teachers, union members, and workers not be persecuted for being Sandinist. 12. The FSLN will work on an alternative economic project that will truly incorporate the masses in production and in jobs to meet their basic needs. With this goal in mind, the FSLN will discuss at a special FSLN Assembly to be held on 17 April economic alternatives to orient our actions and our struggles in the social and economic fields.

The FSLN rejects the government's stabilization and economic adjustment program. We have pointed out that this program is geared toward stimulating a small group, while it excludes the vast majority of the nation's producers. The FSLN opposes this and any plan that represents greater unemployment, deterioration of the people's standard of living, and the reduction of basic services, such as health and education. The FSLN has united with the government on issues, such as the search for peace, stability, the construction of a state of law, and national coexistence. The FSLN is not engaged in a cogovernment and calls on all its activists and the social sectors identified with Sandinism, to mobilize and struggle in the defense of its economic and social rights.

13. The property reform implemented by the Sandinist government is a fundamental part of the political, economic, and democratization project. What is more, it contributes to the nation's stability in the long term and is the basis for the development of economic growth in Nicaragua with social equity and justice.

14. The FSLN will promote the development of the rising economic bloc (National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen, National Federation of Cooperatives, former Nicaragua Resistance members, former Sandinist People's Army members, former Government Ministry workers, Pequena Industria, APT [expansion unknown], Agricultural and Industrial, and so forth), for which it will design and implement a coherent policy.

15. The Sandinist Assembly supports the National Directorate's initiative to promote, through its legislative bloc, the abrogation of Article 96 of the Constitution, eliminating the Patriotic Military Service, as the reasons for which it was created have disappeared.

16. The FSLN rejects any initiative to privatize public services that may deny the constitutional right all Nicaraguans have to free educational and health services. It is also against any initiative that may curtail the right of access to other services, such as water, energy, and communications, which the state is obliged to provide.

17. In the International Year of Indian Populations, we demand from the government and all public institutions the implementation of productive and social programs that will contribute to the alleviation of the isolation and neglect that communities in the Atlantic Coast have suffered for more than three years.

18. The FSLN demands from the president of the Republic the presentation of a list of candidates to the National Assembly in order to elect a new comptroller general who, without political inclinations, will guarantee honesty in public institutions and fight corruption in the government.

19. The following is the Sandinist Assembly's position concerning the blockade of U.S. economic aid:

a) The actions carried out by persons and organizations who have promoted activities in favor of blocking U.S. aid to Nicaragua are viewed as a criminal act, contrary to stability and peace.

b) We condemn any attempt to use economic aid as an instrument of intervention in Nicaraguan internal affairs. In that sense, the FSLN rejects the interventionist attitude of trying to establish a "Truth Commission," with the real intention of facilitating foreign intervention in matters that are the exclusive competence of the government.

c) We urge the U.S. Government and Congress to release immediately the aid approved for our country, in accordance with the principles of international justice and to contribute to create a framework for dignified relations between our two countries.

20. In the foreign policy field, the Sandinist Assembly proposes taking advantage of the installation of a new U.S. administration to seek areas of understanding and create political opportunities. We did not have this opportunity before. The FSLN represents a stability factor in Nicaragua and must be seen as such. We must conduct diplomatic efforts toward the United States, preventing actions by the most conservative groups that could worsen the current crisis.

At the same time, we believe it is necessary to continue working toward broadening and consolidating our relations with the Socialist International and its most progressive parties. We should also continue promoting relations and coordinating actions with other Latin American forces, such as the Sao Paulo Forum, and the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties.

In the same manner, we should continue and intensify our struggle to oppose the blockade against Cuba and carry out actions to show our solidarity toward our Cuban brothers.

[Issued] Managua, 28 March 1993

LA PRENSA Highlights Colon Province Candidate to ARI Board

PA3103234993 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 25 Mar 93 p8A

[Report by Sorhay Bambu Castillo]

[Text] Colon Province—Rafael Arosemena is a civil engineer who graduated from the National University in 1965. If confirmed by the National Assembly, he may go down in history as one of the members of the first Interoceanic Region Authority (ARI) Board of Directors.

The candidate stated that if confirmed he will work for the national interest, giving priority to Colon. On 23 March, the National Assembly initiated the process to investigate the candidates for the ARI Board.

Arosemena said that to feel like a Colon native one does not have to live there. All one needs is to experience its problems. "I am from Colon, I grew up there, and if I move it will be to go to the Mount Hope Cemetery," he emphatically stated.

Arosemena participated in the construction of the Las Minas Bay thermoelectric plant and also worked as general manager for Mantenimiento S.A., a contracting company. He is currently the president and legal representative of Talleres Industriales S.A. and Trabajos Portuarios, one of the most competitive companies worldwide in ship repairs. The company hires employees from Colon.

In terms of his civic activities, he has participated as coordinator for Caritas in the province, was a member of the 20-30 Club, and was involved with the Urban Pastoral mission. In addition, he worked with the group called Colon Women on the Move [Mujeres Colonenses en Camino] and the Colon Missionary Diocese. He was a leader of the National Civic Crusade during the dictatorial regime.

The president of Talleres Industriales S.A. learned of his nomination through a friend who visited his house almost one month ago. Asking Arosemena not to reveal his name, the friend told him that his name was on the list of ARI candidates. He assured Arosemena that he had seen his name on the list. The candidate confirmed the news when he read LA PRENSA.

Arosemena is one of nine candidates for the Board of Directors. He is the only one identified as a Colon resident, because two other candidates who are Colon natives do not live in the province. The names of those candidates are Stanley Muschett and Stanley Motta. Asked to give his views on the Colon free port issue, he replied: "I am not fully informed on the matter, but I am going to say this in Colon style, I support everything that is a break [preceding word in English] for Colon."

Arosemena said that when the U.S. troops invaded the country, he was concerned over who would be named to head the province. With that in mind, he accompanied Dr. Alfredo Elhers, serving as his interpreter, to the Fire

Station to talk with Colonel Brooks [not further identified]. When Elhers informed Brooks that the Panamanian Government had named him, Elhers, the head of the province, the soldier—in combat uniform—laughed and said: "Then I am out of a job."

After a long conversation, they succeeded in getting the U.S. military to help collect the garbage and solve the sewage problem. Commissions were set up in the municipality to perform these tasks.

According to the candidate, he was certain the North Americans did not come to Panama as liberators, but came when their interests concurred with those of Panama, and only to settle a labor dispute with a former employee of theirs—namely Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Spanish Government Announces $84-Million Loan

PA3103204493 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Communique issued by the Presidency Information and Press Directorate in Managua on 30 March]

[Text] The Information and Press Directorate of the Presidency of the Republic is pleased to transcribe a note the Spanish Embassy in Nicaragua has issued:

The Spanish Embassy is pleased to announce the Government of Spain has granted Nicaragua a loan for approximately $84 million for a term of three years. The loan agreement will be signed when the Nicaraguan presidency minister visits Spain on 5 and 6 April.

In this manner, the Government of Spain wishes to voice the solidarity and friendship of the Spanish Government and people for the Nicaraguan Government and people.

This assistance for the people and Government of Nicaragua is an excellent sign of the support the international community will continue providing the government of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, which is making continuous efforts for attaining peace and democracy while establishing the foundation for sustainable development of our beloved Nicaragua.

[Issued] Managua, 30 March 1993

* Chamorro on Term Length, H. Ortega

93CA0079B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Feb 93 pp 1, 5

[Report on interview with President Violeta Chamorro by Maria Alicia Talavera: "I Am Going To Complete My Six-Year Term"]

[Text] Three years after promising reconciliation among all Nicaraguans, in some national and international political sectors the drums of war are again sounding, but Violeta Barrios de Chamorro is sure she will reach her goal, for "everything is possible in life. Death is the only thing that creates impossibilities."

She does not hide the fact that there are problems and she recognizes the criticisms, but says that "we are better than before" and promises that she will complete her six-year term. In a lengthy interview, she notes that foreign aid is going to come to an end, and it will be necessary to "learn how to work the land."

On the third anniversary of her election as president, she says she is "happy, tranquil, bearing enormous responsibilities toward my country, and trying to find ways to solve, as we say, problems and troubles."

"Enormous pride" and with the satisfaction of having managed to get "the resistance to lay down its arms," that is how the president describes her feelings three years after the start of her term.

Seated in a rocking chair (which she says is extremely heavy), Chamorro spoke with BARRICADA for 50 minutes in her second-floor Presidential Building office. She began by taking out of her purse her makeup case (her hairbrush, compact, vanity, and lipstick) as "there is no need to neglect appearances."

Alone, with the tape recorder at her side, the 63-year-old executive says when she took office the nation had "an enormous lack of humanity, I would say. In that sense my campaign was based on reconciliation, pardon."

That, she says, "cost a great deal and full payment has not yet been made. For us to pardon ourselves, you and I, it costs a great deal."

She Recognizes Criticisms

She recognizes the criticisms of her administration, but says that "we are better than before." One such improvement, she says, is the lack of censorship. "And I know what it was like before."

She also says that the people, especially humble people, have come to "thank God that there is no longer compulsory military service."

Every day she receives hundreds of letters, some "asking for help to pay for a promise made" so that she would be elected, but "I do not like to keep on saying those things," she states.

"Things should not be done too quickly," she comments, referring to those who accuse her of not carrying out the UNO [National Opposition Union] program. Perhaps, after six years, the constitutional reforms will be made. "That is what I think and what I would like."

In her opinion, she is complying with the UNO program, "as I received it, and in accordance with the Political Constitution of the Republic, which I also received."

One sector of UNO is calling for a plebiscite or referendum to decide on her presidential term. "I am going to complete my six years in office. I will leave the country in much better shape than when I took office," is her answer to that.

Tough as Chintz Fabric

She is sure that the people will not accep' that referendum. "They are going to want my presidential term to be completed."

She tells some stories and even compares herself to "chintz," explaining: "That is a fabric that holds firm.... When I go out into the sun, I put nothing on my skin, and I always stay the same."

Her office is full of family photographs, photos from her election campaign, from her term in government, but the most striking item is the poster showing her husband, whom she speaks of often. There are also a crucifix and various mementos. "Everything here is a gift, nothing was bought."

About the small beige and rose rugs, she says: "Imagine, I bought those while my husband was alive, in our last trip to Europe. We were in Spain and I bought them in a big store called "El Corte Ingles," on the cheapest floor. I bought them there."

The FSLN and Change

There is a lot to talk about and little time. On her agenda there is a meeting with OAS [Organization of American States] Deputy Secretary General Christopher Thomas. We return to the essentials and she says she is not a politician: "I do not like political parties at all. The only thing I profess faith in is the Catholic religion."

Has she ever thought about forming a party? "No, no, no. Absolutely not. The only banner which I support is the blue and white flag (she says, gesturing toward the bicolor flag), the flag under which I was born in Nicaragua."

On the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], she believes that "in itself, it is a completely divided party. You know the saying that the worst conflicts arise among small groups of people...."

"The people wanted a change here. They did not want war; what they wanted was unity. I have always said that. The FSLN was completely mistaken and that is going to hurt them. Might they return to power? That is going to cost them.... I believe they may even have to change their name and become something else."

"Because everything is known," she muses. "I have seen that the demonstrations have slowed down a little. Now they are calmer. Thank God, maybe we are beginning to understand each other a little better. We may be on the verge of a great convergence."

Opposed to Weapons

In speaking of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army], the first thing she says is a profession of faith.... "Look, you know that I am opposed to weapons. I have always said that. I have continued to downsize the Army. It is not that I do not respect the people who work in the Army, but I want them to be well-trained, well-instructed people, even as our National hero Augusto Cesar Sandino used to say, sufficient to watch over the country."

The issue of General Humberto Ortega's survival come up and she says she has told him that "he was not going to be there forever."

"He is well aware of that and he said to me that he really wanted to devote more time to his home and family. No one is a permanent fixture, not even the president," she comments very definitely.

She adds: "We have not spoken of military laws or anything about those issues. He (Ortega) will leave at some point in time, and you know that. I am very grateful to him for the work he has done, as I also value the other ministers."

At the end of her term, she thinks that more arms will have been recovered from the population because "they disgust me; I am allergic to them, I am afraid of them."

Aid Will Come to an End

Some groups in the United States are talking about the possibility of a war in Nicaragua, but she says decisively: "That is not going to happen. God willing, it will not happen. I do not believe the U.S. President wants to finance war. The war is over."

She does not want war, she says; instead, she wants everyone to lay down their arms.

On numerous occasions she has said that Nicaragua is living on international public charity. In her trips abroad, she has received much support. "If we did not have it, we would not have the situation we now have."

But a time will come when "the countries that support us will not be able to support us any longer. The Scandinavian countries who are aiding us have their own problems. They help us because they love Nicaragua, they love our people."

So "I touch wood, I knock on doors, and they open them for me. They have given us donations, they have given us long-term loans."

"Venezuela set the example. And the U.S. Government has a commitment to give aid for five, six years. Now they cut back in the year that just ended; the aid was $50 million short, and that was a blow for my people. Not for me, because we had programmed that for agriculture."

If there is no money, it must be sought elsewhere. "We have to learn to work the land." She wants to emphasize nontraditional crops like melons.

Violeta Chamorro has no favorites among her Central American colleagues. "I am sad, as they are all ending their terms and only I am going to remain, for I had begun to get to know them in Antigua, Guatemala (June 1990)."

She also told us that on her trip to Belize last week, the landing gear of the AN-26 FAS plane that was carrying her "would not go down. It had to be lowered by hand. Well, that is why I do not travel like that."

She denies that her family is badly divided. "No, never, not at all. We help each other, thank God for that. We may think differently, but our love is not forgotten and is never absent."

Has she thought about marrying again?

"Me! You must be kidding. That has never in my life occurred to me. Why stir up trouble for people (she laughs). It is better to be alone than to have an unhappy marriage. It is better that I stay at home doing my charity work that I have always done, being with my family, helping to the extent of my abilities."

"I am Catholic, very Christian. I do not want bloodshed; no more bloodshed than has already taken place in this country. I want no more deaths."

* Chamorro's Views on Budget Reported

93CA0079A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Feb 93 p 12

[Text of letter from President Violeta Chamorro to National Assembly President Gustavo Tablada Zelaya; letter dated 22 Feb 93; reference number P-1827-53-2-93]

[Text] Dr. Gustavo Tablada Zelaya; President, National Assembly; Managua. Dear Dr. Tablada:

The budget for 1993 that I am sending to the National Assembly is based on two facts. One, the consensus reached at the end of 1992 by the representatives of the Nicaraguan people about the need to promote job creation over wage and salary increases, and investment rather than consumption. In the nation's present circumstances, these are basic factors for promoting economic growth in a climate of social peace. Secondly, foreign aid is declining on a worldwide level—particularly in liquid and flexible resources—and consequently, in terms of each country.

Therefore, in 1993 we face a dual challenge: the move from an adjustment and stabilization program to one of adjustment and growth, which I have called the Solidarity Reactivation Plan, with fewer foreign liquid assets available than in 1992. Consequently, these challenges engage not only the executive, but also call for the active support and responsibility of the honorable representatives in the National Assembly.

The 1993 national budget is the keystone of the government's economic and social policy, and it is also integrated interdependently with our monetary and credit policy to form the current year's Economic Program. Moreover, the budget is based on the recommendations of and the commitments made to the international community at the recent meeting held on 3 and 4 December 1992.

The 1993 budget will serve as a starting point for the next Advisory Group Meeting of countries and multinational agencies that give support to Nicaragua. This meeting will be held on 2 April in Paris, France, and at this time we hope to share with the international community our progress, the efforts made, and the difficulties encountered, so that we may obtain the foreign aid that will permit us to provide the financing required during the 1993-94 and 1994-95 periods for the sustained growth that we must all promote.

The total spending budget scheduled for 1993 includes a nominal increase of 1.3 percent in relation to 1992's actual spending. This reflects a real reduction in government spending in order to devote a larger amount of resources to supporting a production recovery. However, the relative share of social spending in relation to 1992 is growing significantly more than overall spending, increasing by 8 percent. This clearly reflects my government's priorities.

Consequently, both obtaining the domestic resources to support social programs and to reactivate production, and obtaining the foreign resources for private investment, through credit, and to maintain the investments programmed and the payment of the foreign debt depend on the approval and implementation of this budget.

I am sending the budget on this date as the Assembly did not meet last year after 2 September 1992, and also because on 10 January 1993, the date on which the current legislative period began, I announced the second phase of the Economic Plan which began in March 1991. The first phase of the economic plan implemented in the last two years has been internationally recognized as highly successful.

This success is even more remarkable as it is the only case since World War II of a country that has gone from hyperinflation to single-digit inflation in just two years. Moreover, in 1992 Nicaragua had the lowest rate of inflation in all of Latin America. The abrupt decline in inflation has greatly helped to improve the well-being of our poorest people.

Based on the preceding comments and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution related to the General Budget of the Republic, Article 113 and Article 150, Paragraph 5, and the powers related to the National Assembly, Article 138, Paragraph 6, through your intercession I hereby submit for the consideration of the honorable members of the National Assembly the General Budget of the Republic for the 1993 fiscal year, along with the views which I have expressed. I am convinced that within our existing limitations we are taking solid steps to consolidate the stability of the economy and to make possible in coming years a lasting and growing improvement in the standard of living of all the Nicaraguan people.

With greetings to you and the honorable deputies, I remain, very cordially yours, Violeta B. de Chamorro, President of Nicaragua.

* Commentary Views Tony Ibarra's Career

93CA0080F Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Feb 93 p 12

[Commentary by Pedro J. Chamorro]

[Text] To some, Antonio Ibarra Rojas is now such a despicable human being that his name is not even worth uttering. He is a gangster, an overweight, evil, lying, Machiavellian man who deserves to be extradited ever since he blurted out everything he knew—and did not know—in a Bolivian city named Cochabamba.

To these same people he was once a man who deserved public offices of great trust: deputy labor minister and deputy minister of the presidency. Owing to his loquacity in defense of the government he also at one time was given many hours on the TV program "Democracy on the March," on which he captivated the viewing audience with his eloquence.

He was deserving of such trust, in fact so much so, that he was charged with managing the funds earmarked for the most oppressed segments of society and of handling relations with the National Assembly.

Tony unquestionably leapt from obscurity to fame and from fame to disgrace with great ease. In spite of everything, luck is still with him, because to some he deserves to be heard at a full session of the U.S. Congress, and these powerful interests have spread their mantle of protection over him in Bolivia. The fat man is still an "asset" to them.

But what happened to this little fat man who is now subject to extradition? Why did his luck change?

Tony was denounced by the brave deputy minister of economy and development, Noel Vidaurre. Scandal, headlines, "war of the chickens," but still EL NUEVO DIARIO defended him, and Tony said lovely things about Lacayo. It was a full-fledged plot by Cesar and Potoy against Lacayo.

What happened to Vidaurre, who did the government the favor of uncovering this gangster at heart? Was he promoted? No. Quite to the contrary. Today Vidaurre is no longer in government.... He was punished.

If Vidaurre had not loudly denounced the greedy little fat man, the latter would no doubt be up to his same old tricks in the same post. After all, Tony had more than enough ex officio defenders.

But there was another man who took it upon himself to conduct investigations, gather evidence against Tony, and accumulate it in a thick file. These are the same documents that the government has confiscated today in justifying its extradition request to the Bolivian Government. Do you remember? It was Guillermo Potoy, the comptroller general of the Republic.

What happened to Godoy and the team that put together the Ibarra file? Was their budget increased so that they could continue to uncover criminals? No. His time passed when the tide shifted in the National Assembly, and his last loyal man in the Comptroller's Office was fired last week, after which the office returned to its former masters. What a problem Potoy has! He went too far in his investigations! He also became politicized, did he not?

Yes, he became politicized, as did Vidaurre, Bolanos, De Franco, Mayorga, Hurtado, Dreyfus, the entire UNO [National Opposition Union], Mayor Aleman, and on and on.... What a problem Nicaragua has. Everybody is becoming politicized.

* Commentary Views H. Ortega's Threats

93CA0080D Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Feb 93 p 10

[Commentary by Horacio Ruiz]

[Text] Just when we Nicaraguans were sure that Army General Humberto Ortega would never be able to outdo himself in coming up with celebrated predictions of doom, he showed us something brand new in this department when he spoke last Monday to the National Assembly.

General Ortega assured us that "if they insist on sweeping aside Sandinism, there are going to be 100,000 dead here."

One does not know whether to worry more about the huge environmental problem involved in disposing of 100,000 cadavers and preventing a giant cloud of acid rain from covering the country, or whether to sympathize with the people who will have to investigate all these deaths. The poor Scotland Yard expert who will be called in to investigate 100,000 deaths in Nicaragua, where a single death defies the most painstaking inquiries. Of the three mysterious deaths that have occurred since 1990, none has been investigated thoroughly.

Investigating 100,000 cases will no doubt be a job for Hercules, not Hercule Poirot.

But there is no reason to be stunned by this premonition of General Ortega's, which seems straight out of the script of "Terminator II," because the premise on which it is based is sheer illusion. No one here is sweeping aside the Sandinists; rather, it is the Sandinists who have already swept everything aside. Thus, the action that would bring about the general's deluded idea does not exist. And if we examine his words carefully, we will find that the whole idea seems to be the product of a sudden fibrillation of his brain, since his supposition is just that, a supposition.

For example, the general says that on Sunday, 28 February, during the UNO [National Opposition Union] celebration of the third anniversary of its victory, several members of the political group will disguise themselves as Army personnel and act as provocateurs.

Let us get one thing straight, a provocateur would never wear a uniform, because then there would be no point to his actions, since he would be identified in advance. Now if the idea is to use Army uniforms stolen for this purpose, the scheme does not withstand a thorough analysis either, because by this point all of the members of the Armed Forces, who are surely quite happy with their new uniforms of generously donated Taiwanese poplin, are putting them in safe places to prevent such thefts.

General Ortega then predicts another highly unlikely development: Alfredo Cesar will take refuge, he says, in the U.S. Embassy. Doubtful, because trying to enter the U.S. Embassy, given its security systems, is like trying to jump over the booby-trapped ditches that Hussein prepared for the coalition soldiers. Moreover, if this were true or likely, the general would have had the U.S. Embassy surrounded with his soldiers, as of yesterday. Aside from this, it is well-known that the United States does not accept political refugees. In other words, even if Alfredo Cesar managed to make his way through the formidable maze of metal around the American Embassy, he would very kindly be invited to take his leave.

Regrettably, his memorable new remark lacks the luster of the "thousands of posts on which to hang the reactionaries" and does not have enough of the Ortega trademark. Some reflection is in order here: no battle, no human action, except Hiroshima, has ever caused 100,000 deaths. It is not that easy a matter. It can be attempted, but success is elusive in such efforts. In military terms, this operation would be, and General Ortega surely knows as much, "too tall," as they say at West Point.

Having calmed down somewhat, let us consider what prompted the general to make this "Prophecy VII." UNO is going to assemble to celebrate the third anniversary of its election victory and protest what it regards as a joint government between President Violeta de Chamorro and the Sandinists. In other words, there are going to be several more speeches in the plaza. But from there to overthrowing President Chamorro is a 10-block walk. Let us be frank: the only person who can overthrow President Chamorro is General Ortega, and he does not want to do so, at least as far as one can see.

This business of killing 100,000 people, therefore, must have confused the general. We say this because it smacks of a "final solution," given the Sandinists' well known views on economic affairs and state-owned property: "Let us wipe the slate clean." Perhaps the general misread the text or the speeches got switched on him at the assembly.

It bears noting, however, that there was another cerebral fibrillation shortly before this in Niquinihomo, where Sergio Ramirez asserted that Sandinism would win the elections in 1996 "as long as Aleman, Cesar, and Godoy do not steal its votes."

Perhaps there was another mix-up in the sheets of paper that Ramirez was reading, and he was talking about the only alleged culprit in a hypothetical situation such as an electoral fraud, which is also an assumption, that hurts the Sandinists. Perhaps Ramirez was talking about Dr. Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren, the chairman of the Electoral Tribunal, a man of impeccable conduct and above all suspicion. That would be a strikingly unfair insinuation, because as far as we know, neither Arnoldo Aleman nor Alfredo Cesar nor Virgilio Godoy have been appointed electoral judges of the nation.

There is no explanation either as to how the Sandinists could win in 1996, when as former President Daniel Ortega recently said, their private polls show that they are backed by just 22 percent of the public, and this continues to decline.

We could also blame these mirages on rising summer temperatures. But the general and Ramirez ought to fan themselves a bit with their speeches before reading them. To talk about a death toll of 100,000 in Nicaragua is going too far. We must not forget that we are still an underdeveloped country.

* Lacayo 'Mistaken' in Handling of FSLN

93CA0080E Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Feb 93 p 12

[Commentary by Alfredo Poveda P.]

[Text] The thinking was that 1993 was going to be a year of major accomplishments in the various areas of the country, but it so happens that sinister reactionary forces (read, the Sandinists) are lashing out left and right without caring one whit for the lot of the Nicaraguan people.

The source of the problem is, without any doubt whatsoever, the transition protocol, which is seemingly above all of the country's laws. Signed by Antonio Lacayo on the government's behalf and by General Humberto Ortega on behalf of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], it comprises a series of accords and commitments that permanently and brutally fetter all of our people's yearnings for freedom and comprehensive progress.

It is simply wishful thinking to talk about patriotism in Nicaragua, because the driving forces of events are the vested interests of the Sandinist Front and the interests of the ruling oligarchy.

No matter how hard the government's spokesmen may strive to win over our people, during the visits that its ministers have paid to several radio stations in the capital, where they have said that the plans and laws that have been enacted to get our economy moving again are realistic, such intentions are sheer speculation in spite of the apparent specificity with which they are being advertised.

There is a very simple reason for this: the sovereignty and independence of the legislature was not respected.

The people will never accept government impositions, which will be nothing more than ordinances issued by the executive branch against the will of the people and to the detriment of peaceful coexistence among them.

The takeover of the Congress building by the police gave rise to a demonstration in support of UNO [National Opposition Union], underscoring in eloquent, masterful fashion the indispensable need to keep the political movement that defeated the Sandinist Front, the UNO, alive and well.

In the first place, this organization, through the UNO congressional bloc, must struggle to reform the Constitution, which was made in the image of Sandinism and serves only the interests of the front.

The fact is that the new Executive Committee was imposed on Congress, because the only person who has a legal right to appoint it is the outgoing president of Congress. It is thus easy to understand the crass FSLN maneuver, supported and directed by Antonio Lacayo (pardon me, I mean to say the president of the Republic), a maneuver that certainly deserves our people's emphatic contempt and condemnation.

Mr. Lacayo of the Sandinists, pardon me, Mr. Lacayo and the Sandinists are wrong if they think that by controlling all branches of government they are going to solve Nicaragua's crisis. There is something that is above all of these designs: the will, the welfare, and the freedom of the majesty of the Nicaraguan people.

A brief analysis of the current political situation in Nicaragua having been conducted, everything that is debated in "Congress" will have strong overtones of illegality.

Moreover, the government's policy of giving priority to social issues in the country is a smoke screen to deceive our people, because although many workers will be given jobs, most will be short-lived, and when they become unemployed again, the ministers will be hatching new plans to stave off discontent and hunger among our people.

We must realize once and for all that the only sound, permanent foundation for our country's economy is production. Nicaragua is primarily an agricultural and livestock country, and it is to these areas that the government must lend priority support. The problem arises when the members of the front take over other people's property and kidnap and murder the owners, thus bringing back the vicious circle of destabilizing the country through political revanchism.

Such political instability is the breeding ground that the Sandinists want to fertilize and sustain because they tremble at the prospect that a real rule of law will ever be established in Nicaragua.

There can be peace and progress in Nicaragua only if individual rights and property are respected. Only by interpreting with true patriotism our people's yearning for freedom will we be able to build the solid foundation on which democracy will rise resplendent and majestic.

* CST-Cornap 2 February Agreement Criticized

93CA0080B Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Feb 93 p 10

[Commentary by Rosendo Diaz Bendana]

[Text] The agreement that the CST [Sandinist Workers Federation] and Cornap [National Corporation of the Public Sector] signed on 2 February 1993 is an illegal, immoral low blow, a coup de grace that the neo-Sandinist government is administering to Nicaragua's private sector.

This traitorous, underhanded agreement represents the continuation of a steady and effective program to destroy the private sector through the "democratization" (robbery) of property that is still in the hands of its previous owners.

The CST-Cornap accord and the government's "privatization" process are:

1) Unconstitutional, because the current Constitution does not provide for the transfer or donation of national assets.

2) Illegal, because no Privatization Law empowers the executive branch to conduct this process.

3) Fraudulent, because transactions are being conducted without the legal power to do so.

4) Arbitrary, because a whim is being imposed on law, order, and reason.

5) Unjust, because some are benefiting at the expense of others.

6) Immoral, because they violate the laws of God and man.

7) Malevolent, because they are fomenting anarchy and disrespect for property rights in Nicaragua.

We have seen how, under Sandinism, the private sector was fraudulently "confiscated"; we have witnessed the brazen, illegal, and unpunished manner in which rural property, urban plots, and medium- and large-scale agricultural holdings have been invaded and parceled out; we have witnessed how "state-run enterprises" are being distributed among their workers, and now we await only the timely apportionment of the remaining legally registered private property in Nicaragua.

As we can see at a glance (even a blind person could), this accord is the culmination of a Machiavellian plan to create chaos in property rights, to encourage robbery and afterwards to legitimize and protect it with the appropriate law (?) and authority, as happened with the properties that were given away by pinata under Laws 85 and 86 of the previous Sandinist regime.

Now that the ruinous precedent of fraudulently granting the workers of "state-run enterprises" 40-60 and 100

percent of the shares in them has been established, one question remains: How is justice going to be done to the rest of the workers who did not receive their "share" and are now demanding it?

The die is cast, and the private sector has one last chance to defend property rights, law, and democracy in the country. If we do not do so now, let us not complain tomorrow about the result of our own inertia and cowardice.

Let us remember that: "Uncertainty in justice and the law is a 'iure et de iure' indication or presumption of a government that is not only despotic and ignorant but also tyrannical and irresponsible."

* Entrepreneurial Spirit 'Positive' Sign

93CA0080A Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Feb 93 p 10

[Commentary by Nasere Habed Lopez]

[Text] A few days ago I ran into a Nicaraguan businessman whom I had not seen in many years. The issue of Nicaragua's future came up in our conversation.

His view left me speechless. With terrible images he described a bleak future for Nicaragua, one full of hunger, poverty, rampant crime, and moral degradation, with no salvation for anyone.

In his opinion, it was all the fault of the wars, administrative corruption, venal politicians, the mismanagement of the economy, and the steady loss of international confidence and financial support.

Perhaps some economists, politicians, and businessmen have this same vision.

My assessment of the future is different. It is based on the Nicaraguan character, on the ability of our people to overcome the most tragic and trying situations.

In spite of the poor governments and the ineffectiveness of our political class, in spite of wars and natural disasters, Nicaraguans have never collapsed or fallen into chaos. They have never given up. They have always found the strength to struggle against adversity and win out over destiny.

I think that those who predict the worst for Nicaragua have failed to take this trait of our people into account.

The economic situation is critical, and crime is on the rise. That is true. But we cannot ignore the constructive effort that the overwhelming majority of the population is making to overcome the crisis.

Right away they developed survival methods that show not only initiative and talent but also, and above all, high moral values.

In spite of the crisis and the sweeping political changes, Nicaraguans are preserving the nuclear family. Those who have jobs are helping those who do not. Children and adults are contributing to the maintenance of the group. Family solidarity is the strongest pillar on which the security of the individual rests.

And those who leave Nicaragua in search of new job opportunities do so with the family in mind. In spite of their hardships abroad, they do not delay in sending help to their relatives who have stayed behind. They never forget them.

Each home, each house tends to become a small store, and each Nicaraguan a small-scale merchant. More than doing business, they are seeking an additional subsistence income.

This is why the small-scale vending of cigarettes, candy, chewing gum, soft drinks, and fruit has multiplied in Nicaragua.

Liquor stores, video stores, Nintendo parlors, beer halls, vulcanization shops, used-clothing shops, low-cost restaurants, minimarts, and minidistributors are popping up everywhere.

Traffic lights have turned into little markets. Adults and children alike offer all they can carry in their arms, from electronic equipment and tools to ice water, "chocoyos," monkeys, and little deer.

The children who clean windshields have become fixtures by now. They also keep an eye on parking lots, wash cars, shine shoes, and carry bags at markets.

On roadsides, peasant farmers offer bananas, cottage cheese, honey, firewood, fruit, little birds, iguanas, and anything they can wrest from nature.

Pulling carts or carrying bundles on their heads, women merchants hawk their mostly homemade wares in musical tones.

And the poorest of the poor pick through garbage cans to stay alive.

If people cannot find jobs in what they know how to do, they improvise in other trades, such as locksmith, plumber, snapshooter, sign painter, door-to-door salesman, mechanic, and taxicab driver.

It is a spectacular picture of work and initiative in the face of the national crisis, an example of integrity that shows the moral fiber of our people. This is why there is no hunger in Nicaragua, even though there is poverty.

This is the same spirit that we saw when the earthquake destroyed Managua in 1972. Working amid the rubble, earthquake-struck Managua residents did not take long to rebuild their shops, offices, and businesses. The signs "Operating at..." that we saw at various spots around the ruined city were symbols of Nicaraguans' triumph over the blind forces of nature.

Looking back to my youth, I recall, as if it were yesterday, the cry "Get 'em sharpened!" that announced the arrival of a little old man who for years walked the streets of Managua every day sharpening knives and scissors. The old man's "Get 'em sharpened" ceased to be heard only when death overcame him.

This is why I do not share the pessimistic view of my friend the businessman. I do not see black ribbons in Nicaragua's future. I foresee a better future, not because of the genius of politicians but thanks to the determination and creativity of Nicaraguans.

The people have already developed survival methods and created a huge network of commercial distribution. Tomorrow they will bring forth small and medium-sized production enterprises that will give life to the national economy. And they will not stop there. Their talent, their morale, and their organizational ability will lead them to build a better society.

* Waslala Murders Deplored

* UNO Blamed

93CA0077A Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 17 Feb 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Crime in Waslala—Fruit of the Revanchist Trio"]

[Text] The bloody events in Waslala are the fruit of the violent preachings of the trio of death, Cesar-Aleman-Godoy, who must feel proud of their work.

To the list of over 200 Sandinists murdered through revanchist hatred since the present government took office, there can now be added two children, Xiomara, an eight-year-old girl, her little sister Alba Nubia, six, and their father, Juan Davila Perez.

No prayers for the dead will be recited in church, nor will there be angry protests in COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] meeting rooms. Most likely, hypocritical words may be said concerning this crime, while in the intimate recesses of their atrophied consciences they will rejoice that the lives of one Sandinist and his children were terminated.

The blood lust of these people did not stop with 50,000 or 60,000 deaths in the war, nor did their conspiracies upon regaining power. They do not care if they have to step over 50,000 more dead bodies if only they can once again hold omnipotent power.

Things cannot go on in this way. This situation must end. These big shots and their servants must not be allowed to sign death warrants in the capital that result in brutal murders of campesinos at dawn.

Our people do not want war or crimes. This is shown by the small demonstrations in which the warmongers go about shouting and calling for genocide.

The APO-UNO [Opposition Political Alliance-National Opposition Union], instead of offering land to the campesinos, gives them new rifles so they will slaughter each other. Now the landholders are again taking advantage of their poverty, offering them a pittance in exchange for land given to them by the Agrarian Reform, promoted and maintained with the courage of the revolutionaries.

Nicaraguans from all over the political spectrum must protest and demand an end to these crimes.

May the warmongers be left in isolation.

* U.S. Reaction Viewed

93CA0077B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Feb 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Unusual Condemnation, Insufficient Response"]

[Text] Last Friday the State Department issued an unusual statement condemning the Waslala massacre and calling for an investigation of the murder of the Sandinist cooperative member, Juan Davila, and of his two young daughters.

This is the first time since the change in administration almost three years ago that Washington has expressed formal concern about the violent death of a Sandinist. In its latest "Report on Human Rights in Nicaragua" (January 1993), the State Department listed the alleged murder of 59 former members of the resistance in 1992, but did not say a single word about the dozens of Sandinists who were murdered for political reasons during the same period.

The U.S. condemnation of the Waslala crime, while it is the least to be expected from any government concerned about Nicaraguan stability, seems to be a sign of positive change from the traditional Republican line.

But to what point may this statement be interpreted as an in-depth change associated with the Democrats' traditional emphasis on human rights? Or might it simply be a compulsory diplomatic move in response to a horrendous crime?

It seems risky to make predictions when the State Department's undersecretaries for Latin America and for human rights have not yet been appointed, and their policies in these areas are still unknown. The only certainty to date is the absence of permanent signals of change that might give credibility to the Democratic policy on Nicaragua.

To begin with, Washington has an obligation to help depoliticize the human rights groups it has officially promoted, the CPDH [Permanent Commission on Human Rights] and NAPDH [expansion not given]. According to the report cited above, the CPDH was financed with AID [Agency for International Development] funds from June 1990 and the NPDH began to receive funding in mid-1992.

Both organizations have shown intense partiality. They keep quiet about things that will hurt the political interests they defend, such as the Waslala massacre. Rather than impartial human rights associations, they have become a partisan political lobby, or even a lucrative business. These groups are financed by U.S. taxpayers.

In the second place, if the new Democratic administration is concerned about the climate of confrontation and the deaths on both sides in Nicaragua, it should adopt a policy to support the reconciliation program, instead of undermining its leadership.

The political and economic pressure that led to holding back $50 million in U.S. aid, now under Clinton's control, is the wrong policy. It feeds polarization and stimulates in extremist sectors the illusion of a short-term change in government with U.S. support.

Whether or not that expectation is correct, the truth is that those who murdered Juan Davila and his daughters—a crime condemned by the State Department—are part of a wave of violence that is aided by the current uncertainty in U.S. policy.

* Source of Arms Supplies to Recontras Examined

93CA0080C Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 27 Feb 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Who Are Supplying the Recontras by Air?"]

[Text] The remarks by a spokesman for the Ministry of Government, who reported that mysterious aircraft have been flying over the Jinotega and San Rafael del Norte mountains in recent hours for the obvious purpose of supplying the Recontras [former Contras who have taken up arms], confirm the many stories that have been appearing in the press for some time on this issue.

But who is behind these repeated flights that the government has only timidly referred to, as if it did not want to offend the culprits, because they are among its murderous "friends" or those with whom it honestly believes that it must not fight so as not to intensify their obsessive opposition to Nicaragua and peace? Is it rightist politicians from home and abroad who are plotting against the government in a common strategy of Yankee extremists and domestic traitors, the enemies of the rule of law?

Is it proper for the government to continue burying its head in the sand and to fail to denounce with appropriate emphasis this arms buildup that seeks to provoke another war between Nicaraguans? Does it not have enough guts and dignity to pillory these merchants of death in public, even if it offends, deservedly of course, their skin-deep democratic sensibilities? Where is the president's poise, which she displays so emphatically when she talks about and cheerfully underestimates Sandinism?

This government needs to return to its proper role and regain its authority, because as long as the hawks continue to foment butchery and play their old tricks in many various ways, it cannot just drop a hint here and there against those who are trampling on the peace and law and order, against those who, shielded by governmental weakness, rouse the fratricidal instincts of people who turn death into a profitable business.

Behind these secret airlifts are more than a few of the Washington and Miami political circles that, in keeping with the approach of Senator J. Helms and having plenty of money and allies in Central America, have agreed to continue the war in any way they can so that, sooner or later, they can liquidate the current pluralist state and impose right-wing absolutism under the guise of a real democracy.

It is high time for the president, relying on appropriate investigations, to disclose the plans of the country's domestic and foreign enemies, not only for the sake of preserving the threatened peace but also pursuant to the elementary right of self-defense that every self-respecting government must exercise without suicidal hesitation. Democracy does not mean tolerance of criminals and destroyers of liberty.

Panama

Linares Voices 'Dissatisfaction' on U.S. Delay To Pass MLAT

PA3103180493 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 31 Mar 93 p 1A

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares expressed his dissatisfaction with the U.S. Government for its failure to ratify the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT), signed by both countries in 1991.

Linares said that he worked very hard during the negotiating process with the United States to ensure that the treaty was signed. Later, in July 1991, the Legislative Assembly approved the treaty.

The foreign minister added that since that time, the Panamanian Government has been waiting for the U.S. Congress to ratify the MLAT so it can be used as an instrument to fight drug-trafficking.

"There was a great deal of interest to sign the treaty and it has now been neglected," Linares stated when referring to the U.S. delay in ratifying the MLAT.

The foreign minister stated that the United States exerted so much pressure for the approval of the MLAT that it resulted in heated arguments with U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton, because there were points in which both parties disagreed.

For Linares, the implementation of the MLAT is important considering the frequent reports of money laundering and drug-trafficking activities by the U.S. media against Panama.

Journalists Form Association of 'Persecuted Journalists'

PA3103181293 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 31 Mar 93 p A1

[Text] Approximately 200 Panamanian journalists are facing at least 300 suits for slander and injury for attacking the internal security of the state, or they are suffering employment restrictions in the local media, the

Association of Persecuted Journalists of Panama [Union de Periodistas Perseguidos de Panama—UPPP] disclosed.

The recently formed UPPP on 30 March elected Tomas Gabriel Altamirano, LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA president, as its president and Julio Ortega as its vice president.

Andres Vega, owner of Radio BB, was elected treasurer and James Aparicio was elected secretary general. Zelideth Rosales, Alfonso Zamora, and Margarita Sevillano were elected nonvoting members of the leadership.

The UPPP seeks to make public at the national and international levels the situation of the Panamanian media, which is confronting terrorism and judicial persecution.

The newspapers that are being persecuted include LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, EL SIGLO, and the magazine MOMENTO, as well as scores of colleagues who have been called to trial or who have pending cases against them for political and ideological reasons.

"One does not have to commit an irregularity in order to be imprisoned. The media is not going to be closed, but the workers of the media are going to be persecuted and forced to be silent. That is the tactic," Altamirano Duque stated.

The UPPP has learned of cases of Panamanian journalists who are now working as taxi drivers or selling fast food in order to survive and feed their families.

At least 100 journalists have lost their homes after they lost their jobs.

Narcotics Secretary General Alvarado Resigns

PA3103185993 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 31 Mar 93 p 3a

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] Ariel Alvarado, secretary general for narcotics at the Attorney General's Office, tendered his resignation on 30 March to Attorney General Jorge Ramon Valdes, because he feels persecution and political influences prevent him from doing his job.

Alvarado was due back to work on 29 March after a two-month vacation he requested following the Supreme Court's reversal of the dismissal order against him issued by Solicitor General Donatilo.

The former official, who met with Attorney General Valdes, said he resigned because he believes the conditions are not right for him to return to his post, because political influences at the Attorney General's Office prevent him from doing his work.

Alvarado, who claims he has no differences with Attorney Valdes, said persecution against officials, including himself, is taking place within the Attorney General's Office, thus he feels he does not enjoy Valdes' trust.

He added this persecution is aimed at gaining so-called "political opportunities, regardless of the workers' professional capacity."

Alvarado said political influences within the Attorney General's Office are from a group of people who try to control this office from the outside. He added the "judicial system is being used to carry out legal persecution."

Lastly, Alvarado in his note to Valdes expressed understanding of Valdes' political position, which he respects but does not agree with.

It should be noted that Valdes has placed Norberto Castillo in the secretary general for narcotics position, thus Valdes must ratify him to the post or make a new appointment.

Argentina

Di Tella Meets Hurd in London, Views Falklands Issue

PY3103194093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1505 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (NA)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella have been officially invited to visit Great Britain before June to discuss privatization and investment in Argentina.

This was reported by Di Tella, who is on an unofficial visit to London. He took the opportunity to meet British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd and Rex Hunt—who was the Malvinas governor at the time of the 1982 war—among others.

Di Tella pointed out in London that President Menem "cannot come" until all the "old and new fishing and oil exploitation" problems are solved.

Di Tella said that seismic surveys are being conducted in the South Atlantic region. One ended last month and the other is about to end. Through this, "the unilateral measures implemented by Great Britain will end.

"From then on, nothing related to oil exploitation will be done without a previous agreement with Argentina," Di Tella said. He again threatened to take the companies that exploit oil near the Malvinas Islands before an international court.

Di Tella emphasized the agreement reached between the two countries after meeting with Hurd yesterday. The agreement contemplates the suspension in April of special restrictions on military maneuvers in the South Atlantic, which have been in force since the 1982 war.

The prewarning system agreed upon in September 1991, which replaced the 200 mile exclusive military zone that London established around the islands in 1982 will be reduced to the normally accepted size, Di Tella reported.

Military ships and planes, which previously had to report on their routes that went close to the Malvinas Islands, will now follow the normal "pre-warning system used between countries that enjoy normal relations."

"We have agreed on a military exchange with Great Britain to increase mutual confidence. We will organize this exchange with various forces from our two countries. We will normalize military transportation in the region," Di Tella said.

Di Tella will again visit London by June to try to reach partial or definitive agreement on the fishing accords that may have expired by then. These accords compelled Argentina to implement its chartering policy.

Di Tella Returns From London

PY0104034293 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0305 GMT 1 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella arrived in the country tonight from London. He was met by Deputy Foreign Minister Francisco Petrella.

Di Tella, who arrived on a British Airways [preceding two words in English] flight, did not use the airport's VIP lounge nor did he meet the press. A vehicle, which he entered immediately, was waiting for him on the airport's tarmac. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Foreign Minister Denies U.S. Pressure on Patent Law

PY0104021893 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said Congress must decide immediately on a patents law because it is a question of national interest.

The foreign minister today denied that the Brazilian Government is being pressured by the United States to approve the patent law. The minister reported that the U.S. Congress has authorized the U.S. administration to punish countries that did not yet have a patents law by 30 March, but that this decision does not affect only Brazil. According to the Brazilian foreign minister, Brazil has its own sovereignty and should not worry about possible international punishments:

[Begin recording] Brazil must make a decision on the patent law. Congress must make a decision on this because it is in Brazil's interest and not because of U.S. pressures. [end recording]

Minister Cardoso said the project on industrial property must be approved quickly in order to preserve creativity and promote the country's scientific and technological development. This project is receiving several amendment proposals in the Chamber of Deputies, and they must be voted on next week.

On 31 March, the foreign minister participated in a meeting with the Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Relations Committee to discuss Brazilian foreign policy.

Cardoso also confirmed that President Itamar Franco will make a visit to Chile between 17 and 19 September for the purpose of tightening diplomatic and commercial relations between the two countries.

Chile

Top Lautaro Group Leaders To Go to Court

PY3103234693 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Two Lautaro Group members who were arrested several days ago will be placed at the disposal of

Judge (Arnoldo Dreist), who investigates the Lautaro Group's terrorist activities. The two top terrorist leaders, identified as Margarita Elizabeth Rebeco Perez, 26, and Horacio Alfonso Toro Gonzalez, 26, were arrested by Carabineros intelligence personnel.

A Carabineros officer, who did not want to identify himself for security reasons, said the terrorists were directly involved in various terrorist attacks nationwide in the past few years. [passage omitted]

Rebeco was arrested in a house she had rented since April 1992 at 707 [word indistinct] Avenue, in La Florida District. Guillermo Ossadon, the terrorist group's top leader, temporarily lived in the house.

It was reported that police found a large quantity of subversive materials, including explosives, detonators, and 24 grenades made of ammonium nitrate, in the house. Police also seized a M-16 rifle used during the attack on a Carabineros precinct in La Florida District, and a revolver and shotgun apparently stolen from police prison officers during the rescue of inmate (Marco Ariel Antonio Leti). A couple of caps belonging to conscripts who guarded the residence of Army Deputy Commander Lieutenant General Jorge Lucar also were seized.

It was also reported that Rebeco participated in the murder of three Investigative Police officers on 10 September 1992. Toro also perpetrated various terrorist attacks in La Serena, where he was born.

Colombia

Workers 'Peacefully' Occupy Costa Rican Consulate

PA3103180893 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1734 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—A group of workers from Varias de Medellin company on 31 March peacefully occupied the Costa Rican consulate in Medellin, northwestern Colombia, according to the authorities.

The workers entered the Costa Rican consulate in the San Diego neighborhood in southern Medellin and announced that they have been on strike for 44 days. They demanded to talk with Costa Rican Consul Claudia Jaramillo, Varias de Medellin company officials, and company union leaders to reach an agreement.

At the beginning of the March, Varias de Medellin workers occupied the Medellin Metropolitan Bassilica for a week to demand the negotiation of better salaries and social services.

The presence of security and police officers around the consulate were discreetly reported by the authorities, who insisted that it is a peaceful occupation.

Gaviria Installs Police Reorganization Commission

PA3103201993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Report by Marcela Duran]

[Text] President Gaviria on 31 March installed the commission that will make recommendations on the internal reorganization of police. The commission is made up of the prosecutor general, attorney general, comptroller general, retired generals, senators, representatives of economic and communication sectors, and one representative of the labor sector.

In his speech to install the commission, the president defended the permanence of the National Police under the Defense Ministry. He stated that the institution should continue to maintain a nationwide presence, adding that it would be a serious mistake to fracture its command unity.

[Begin Gaviria recording] We must work to improve the internal control mechanisms of police, avoid abuses, and adequately process and resolve the complaints of citizens, because these complaints are valid at all times. [end recording]

Two commissions will analyze the problems of police. The first commission is made up of 50 police officers and the second commission, which was installed on 31 March, is made up of civilians.

For the members of the commission, it is important to return credibility and respect to police, making it a preventative rather than repressive institution.

[Begin recording] [Prosecutor General de Greiff] We will examine low wages in lower levels and misunderstandings between officers and noncommissioned officers. We will see how we can improve the situation.

[Alvaro Valencia Tovar, retired general] We must have an adequate police for a sui generis country. Colombia is not a common country. The situation it is experiencing is very difficult.

[Orlando Obregon, United Workers Federation president] First of all, the police should improve the quality and standards of living of policemen. [end recording]

The commission will present the results of its work within 40 days, which will be included in the Police Reform Draft Bill.

Armed Forces Commanders Respond to Prosecutor's 'Sensitive Assertions'

PA3103165893 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Mar 93 p 12-A

[Letter from commanders of the Colombian Armed Forces to Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff dated 26 March; place not given]

[Text] Dear Mr. Prosecutor General:

The Armed Forces of Colombia and the commanders of those forces have viewed with considerable concern the sensitive assertions you made in public on 25 and 26 March that have forced us to also make a public statement.

The implications for the Armed Forces are very serious because you made public and general references to bribery and corruption. As you and the general public know, the hand of the Armed Forces has not trembled to impose exemplary punishment in the isolated cases of this nature that have emerged within the institution. Much more serious is the fact th[illegible]e statements, far from singling out people or ind[illegible]s who are under suspicion or in the process of being investigated, have cast a blanket of doubt on the Public Force in general.

In your statements you also accused the Armed Forces in general of inefficiency. We are well aware that our institutions are not perfect, and we struggle every day to make them better. We must remind you, however, that over the past few months almost 1,500 subversives and drug traffickers have been placed in your custody, without mentioning other areas in which considerable progress has been made. Thus, Mr. Prosecutor General, the Armed Forces need the people's support and recognition of their efforts at this time when we are profoundly engaged in combating every form of crime, totally adhering to constitutional and legal principles. Although we may need more successful results, no one can disregard the success achieved thus far and the professionalism with which we have worked.

In addition to the issues of corruption and inefficiency, you spoke of cowardice. We are obliged to remind you that within the Armed Forces cowardice is a crime that must be investigated by military penal justice. It is a serious charge that must be backed by clear evidence that will allow us to take the required legal action.

Mr. Prosecutor General, the Armed Forces have admired and placed well-founded hopes in the activities of the Prosecutor General's Office as an institution and in your decisive effort at its head. The Public Force has not and will not decrease its efforts to cooperate with and support the activities that the Prosecutor General's Office has been developing for the country's benefit and especially in favor of justice. Furthermore, as the defense minister has said, we are grateful for the invaluable help you and your institution have contributed to the Armed Forces' efforts throughout the length and breadth of the country to maintain public order and combat crime.

We are certain that neither the prosecutor general nor the defense minister nor the Armed Forces want an institutional schism that would only benefit the country's enemies and criminals who have encountered a serious obstacle in the coordinated efforts of the institutions in question.

Paraguay

'Government Sources' Announce Cabinet Reshuffle

PY0104025793 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 31 Mar 93 p 13

[Excerpt] President Andres Rodriguez will replace the ministers of public works, education, and health, and Education Vice Minister Carmen Quintana de Horak so the executive branch will "suit the Colorado Party electoral campaign," government sources reported yesterday.

The president will order the replacement before Easter week, and this probably will be the last cabinet reshuffle before August. With these replacements, the government will try to give a "full thrust" to the Colorado Party ticket.

This decision will pave the way for the executive branch to extend full support—on all fronts—to the Wasmosy faction for the May elections, for which purpose a great deal of state resources will be used. Top-ranking government and political officials apparently believe that for the campaign to be successful, it is necessary to do without the minister of public works, retired General Porfirio Pereira Ruiz Diaz; Education Minister Dr. Raul Sapena Brugada; and Public Health Minister Cinthya Prieto Conti. Our sources, however, said Minister Conti will be replaced because of a health condition. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Police Control Student Uprising in Los Teques

PA3103174893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1533 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Caracas, 31 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Following the intervention of police in disturbances staged by students in Los Teques, 25 km southwest of the Venezuelan capital, approximately 100 children at a day care center displayed symptoms of asphyxiation, according to a radio station.

The policemen fired tear gas to control the demonstration by students who burned tires and erected barricades to demand improvements at the "Jesus Rosales" school in Los Teques, capital of the neighboring Miranda State.

Radio Rumbos reported the tear gas affected the children, who along with a dozen pedestrians, including two photographers, had to be treated by civil defense workers.

The radio station urged the children's parents to come and pick them up.

Defense Minister Files Suit Against Judge

PA3103190393 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 31 Mar 93

[Text] Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez, defense minister and Air Force general, has just filed a suit against Judge Braulio Sanchez for alleged irregularities in a ruling releasing those involved in the 27 November coup attempt. The defense minister filed the suit at the Military Court, where the charges against Sanchez are being studied to determine if he should be prosecuted.